United Nations S/2014/159

Security Council

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7 March 2014

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Letter dated 7 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the statement made by the spokesman for the Strategic Force of the Korean People's Army of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 5 March 2014 with regard to provocations made by the United States of America over the recent self-defensive rocket-launch drills of the Strategic Force of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-25618 (E) 100314

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Annex to the letter dated 7 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement made by the spokesman for the Strategic Force of the Korean People's Army on 5 March 2014

Pyongyang, 5 March 2014 (Korean Central News Agency (KCNA)): Units of the Strategic Force of the Korean People's Army successfully conducted rocket-launching drills from 21 February to 4 March 2014 according to the regular training plans of fire power units.

The rockets made the safest flights without the slightest deviation northeastward from the launching points and accurately struck the targets in the designated waters, demonstrating the highest-ever rate of hits.

The drills were smoothly conducted with no slight impact not only on regional peace and security but on the international navigation order and ecological environment, since they were based on a scientific calculation of the whole course of the rocket-launching and the scrupulous advance security measures for flight orbit and targets in the designated waters, in particular.

In a statement issued on 5 March, the spokesman for the Strategic Force of the Korean People's Army blasted the United States of America and its allies for misbehaving, steeped in enmity towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, resorting to a malignant smear campaign from the moment its rockets soared into the sky, and clarified the following principled stand of the Force:

1. The United States and its followers should not dare make much fuss, terming the just rocket-launching drills of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea "provocation" and "threats".

As far as provocation is concerned, it is the brigandish Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises kicked off by the United States against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and base remarks made by such a guy as United States Secretary of State Kerry, who labelled the Democratic People's Republic of Korea "closest closed country", "evil place" and "country of evil".

It is the brazen-faced judgement of American style to label the just self-defensive drills in one's own land as "provocation" and it is the shameless standard of American style to describe its war exercises for aggression to serve a sinister purpose in the land of another country as "defensive" and "annual".

The United States and its followers should bear in mind that if their reckless provocation against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea goes beyond the tolerance limit, its defence rockets in the process of drills will lead to a retaliation of the most powerful attack rocket-launching in a moment.

2. The United States and its followers should no longer resort to such a foolish act as escalating tensions under the pretext of the rocket-launching of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Whenever an opportunity presented itself, the United States has deliberately screwed up and escalated the situation on the Korean peninsula under the groundless pretext.

In recent years alone, the United States termed the satellite launch of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea "a missile launch" and fabricated United Nations resolutions on "sanctions", bringing the situation to the brink of war.

This time, too, it is seeking to opt for such a reckless way as escalating tensions again, vociferating about "such sanctions as those against Iran" and "more stringent blockade" under the pretext of the rocket-launching drills of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It was prompted by the United States displeasure with recent signs of the north-south dialogue and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan contact thanks to the positive steps of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The United States should clearly realize that its acts of kicking off frantic war manoeuvres for aggression and aggravating the situation under the pretext of the regular rocket-launching drills of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea can neither work nor be overlooked.

3. The United States and its followers should not dare let loose foolish sophism persistently taking issue with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over its nuclear issue with its rocket-launching drills as momentum.

The United States is now spreading rumours that it "does not recognize not only the rocket launch of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea but its access to nuclear weapons", "the south-north relations can be mended only when the north dismantles its nuclear weapons first" and "the United States-north dialogue and the United States-north relations are possible only when the north moves first".

This is rather an absurd jargon than ignorance.

The nuclear force of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is by no means something to which it had access in the hope of "recognition" by the United States and its followers.

It is the self-defensive treasured sword to defend the whole Korean nation and preserve the regional peace and security from the increasing nuclear threats and blackmail of the United States.

Nothing is more serious miscalculation than to assert that the nuclear deterrence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea exists if anyone recognizes it and disappears if anyone does not recognize it.

The United States had better coolly judge the situation and drop the bad habit of deliberately taking issue with others.

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Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of the Russian Federation on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 5 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations stating that Mr. Konstantin Petrovich Degtyarev has been appointed alternate representative of the Russian Federation on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

14-25650 (E) 100314

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United Nations A/68/791–S/2014/161

General Assembly
Security Council

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11 March 2014

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General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 35, 36 and 52

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Identical letters dated 6 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith, in my capacity as Chair of the Group of Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, a letter regarding the attempt of the "Israeli Knesset" to enact laws aiming at imposing Israeli sovereignty over the holy mosque of Al-Aqsa (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35, 36 and 52, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mamadi **Touré**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

14-26093 (E) 180314

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Annex to the identical letters dated 6 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Group in New York, I wish to draw your urgent attention to the very serious matter of Israeli provocations and violations in Occupied East Jerusalem, particularly at Al-Haram Al-Sharif, which houses the holy mosque of Al-Aqsa, and to convey the Group's grave concerns in this regard.

In the recent period, Israeli extremists, among them Government officials, have escalated their incitement regarding Al-Haram Al-Sharif and repeatedly breached the sanctity of the compound, including through the violent storming of the compound by occupying forces, heightening tensions and stirring religious sentiments. Moreover, members of the Israeli parliament recently introduced provocative legislation to assert "sovereignty" over Al-Haram Al-Sharif, with the aim of creating a fait accompli at the compound and further entrenching Israel's unlawful annexation of the city, which remains unrecognized by the international community and has been deemed null and void by the Security Council, as reaffirmed in its relevant resolutions.

OIC, with its 57 Member States, condemns all such acts of aggression and incitement, which constitute a direct provocation of Muslims worldwide, a flagrant violation of relevant United Nations resolutions and international covenants, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, and an affront to the international community's repeated calls for a cessation of illegal Israeli policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Moreover, OIC firmly rejects all attempts and illegal measures by Israel to erase the Palestinian, Arab and Muslim identity, history and presence in the land, particularly in the holy city of Jerusalem.

In this regard, OIC reiterates its support for Jordan in preserving and administering the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, including Al-Haram Al-Sharif, and for the Hashemite historic custodianship of the sites as exercised by His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein. Moreover, it must be reaffirmed that Israel's status in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, of which East Jerusalem is an integral and inseparable part, remains that of an occupying Power. We recall that the acquisition of territory by force is strictly prohibited by international law and Israel's prolonged military occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is illegal, characterized by systematic, grave breaches of international law, including deliberate acts of colonization. As such, any Israeli attempts to impose sovereignty over the compound of the Al-Aqsa mosque, to alter the demographic composition, character and legal status of Occupied East Jerusalem, and all other provocations and aggressions against Muslim and Christian holy sites, including by means of excavations, are unlawful and must be completely halted. The continuation of Israeli violations will only further destabilize the situation and deepen the suffering of the Palestinian people, as well as undermine the current peace negotiations, and thus risks thwarting the small chance for peace that is before us, with dire consequences.

OIC reaffirms its support for the serious efforts being exerted to reach a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the core of the Middle East

conflict, and believes that all efforts must be made to compel Israel to immediately cease its violations. The international community must firmly demand that Israel, the occupying Power, abide by its obligations in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Hague Regulations of 1907 and the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954 and all relevant United Nations resolutions. This is imperative to stem the deterioration of the situation and to save the prospects for realizing peace on the basis of the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference and the Arab Peace Initiative.

If Israel persists with its violations, it must be held accountable and bear full responsibility for the repercussions of its violations. In this regard, OIC stresses that the sanctity of the holy mosque of Al-Aqsa and the status of the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif constitute red lines, and that continued provocations and violations threaten not only to sabotage the peace process, but could also endanger regional and global stability.

This critical matter is a litmus test for our collective resolve to help restore confidence in the negotiations process and achieve the goal of Palestinian-Israeli peace. The international community, particularly the Security Council and the members of the Quartet, must compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all of its illegal, provocative actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. All efforts must be made to ensure calm and respect for the sanctity of holy places, including Al-Haram Al-Sharif, and to advance the peace process towards the conclusion of a just, lasting and comprehensive Palestinian-Israeli peace whereby the independence of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people will be finally realized. Thus, the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif can become the capital of peace, tolerance and coexistence.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35, 36 and 52, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mamadi **Touré**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea
to the United Nations
Chair of the Organization
of the Islamic Cooperation Group in New York

United Nations S/2014/162

Security Council

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7 March 2014

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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 2119 (2013) of 10 October 2013, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) until 15 October 2014, and requested that I report on its implementation semi-annually and not later than 45 days prior to its expiration. The present report covers major developments from the issuance of my report of 20 August 2013 to 10 March 2014 (S/2013/493) and outlines activities undertaken by the Mission in line with its mandate under Security Council resolutions 1542 (2004), 1608 (2005), 1702 (2006), 1743 (2007), 1780 (2007), 1840 (2008), 1892 (2009), 1908 (2010), 1927 (2010), 1944 (2010), 2012 (2011), 2070 (2012) and 2119 (2013).

II. Political and security update

Political situation

2. The early part of the reporting period was marked by heightened tensions and a lingering stalemate between the executive branch and Parliament. The promulgation of a new electoral law and the launch of a national dialogue process alleviated some of those tensions by creating a climate conducive to the holding of long-awaited elections and ensuring the continuity of Parliament.

3. On 9 September 2013, two weeks after submission by the Government, the Chamber of Deputies adopted a new electoral law which was a prerequisite to the holding of long-delayed local, municipal and partial senatorial elections. The draft law specified that the terms of the senators elected in 2009 would run to January 2015, thereby ensuring that Parliament would continue to operate throughout 2014 in spite of the electoral delays. The law was subsequently endorsed by the Senate on 2 October with a number of additional amendments, including a provision stipulating that the Electoral Council would be headed by a director designated by the Electoral Council rather than by the executive branch. That led to a stand-off between the executive and legislative branches, which was partly defused when President Michel Joseph Martelly agreed to convoke an extraordinary session of the Chamber of Deputies in the second half of November, through which the law could be reconciled.

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4. The perceived slowness of the political process and the continued delays in holding elections fuelled tensions not only between Parliament and the executive branch but also throughout the country, resulting in a series of political demonstrations. Those commenced in late September 2013 and peaked on 18 November when up to 20,000 anti-government protesters took to the streets of the capital and other major cities. In late September, the Senate adopted a report calling for the indictment of President Martelly. The report alleged that, despite denials to the contrary, the President and a number of ministers had attempted to pressure a judge investigating allegations of corruption among members of the First Family to drop his case. At the same time, the Senate also rejected the Government's proposed budget for fiscal year 2013/14. On 5 November, the Minister for Justice and Public Security, the Minister for the Interior and Territorial Communities and the Minister for Foreign Affairs narrowly survived no-confidence votes in the Senate.

5. Meanwhile, during September and October 2013, a number of political parties and civil society groups, including the Episcopal Conference of Haiti, consisting of a group of Catholic bishops, and the coalition Religions pour la paix issued public calls for constructive dialogue between the executive branch and Parliament. On 14 October, President Martelly and the Presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies met under the auspices of Religions pour la paix and agreed to launch a dialogue process. Shortly thereafter, President Martelly also accepted the offer of the Episcopal Conference to begin a series of meetings with a range of political actors to promote better dialogue.

6. On 11 November 2013, a number of opposition parties set preconditions for the resumption of dialogue, including the promulgation of the electoral law, the lifting of a controversial arrest warrant against opposition lawyer André Michel and the official appointment by the executive branch of the members of the Council of the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes.

7. Finally, on 22 November 2013, an extraordinary session of the Chamber of Deputies was convoked by the President and, at the same time, the arrest warrant against Mr. Michel was lifted. The session's agenda included the version of the electoral law adopted by the Senate, which the President had initially opposed. Following adoption by the Chamber of Deputies, President Martelly promulgated the law on 10 December, which significantly de-escalated political tensions.

8. On 13 January 2014, Parliament held the opening of its first ordinary session of the 2014 legislative year. On that occasion, President Martelly as well as the President of the National Assembly repeated their calls for national unity and dialogue, seemingly setting the tone for a more collaborative relationship between the executive branch and Parliament. Three days later, the executive branch promulgated a law on the formation, functioning, and financing of political parties, another precondition set by the opposition.

9. On 24 January 2014, a national dialogue process between the executive branch, Parliament and political parties was launched and mediated by the Episcopal Conference, focusing on three areas of concern: democratic governance, elections and constitutional amendments. The launch was attended by President Martelly, parliamentary leaders, the representatives of a range of opposition and pro-government political parties and civil society observers. In his address, the President of the Episcopal Conference, Chibly Cardinal Langlois, stressed the importance of an "inter-Haitian" dialogue process that included the participation of all key national

stakeholders. On 3 February, representatives of the executive branch, Parliament and certain political parties reached a preliminary consensus on the holding of combined elections in 2014 for two thirds of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, municipal administrations and local councils. On 12 February a number of opposition parties abandoned the dialogue process, and on 15 February formalization of the agreement was postponed owing to delays by the executive branch in publishing the full list of council members of the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes.

10. During the reporting period, the United Nations, together with other international and regional organizations, participated as observers in high-level discussions between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which took place on 7 January 2014 in Ouanaminthe (North-East Department of Haiti) and on 3 February in Jimani (Dominican Republic). The discussions focused on a number of bilateral issues, including border management, migration policy, trade and environmental protection in the aftermath of the ruling on nationality by the Dominican Constitutional Court on 23 September 2013.

Security assessment

11. The overall security situation during the reporting period remained relatively stable. Crime statistics collected by the national police and MINUSTAH showed a marginal downward trend in major crimes compared with the reporting period of the previous year. The total number of homicides in 2013 (817 reported cases) was 21 per cent lower than in 2012, reversing a five-year trend. Violence and gang activity continued to be concentrated in major urban centres, with approximately 77 per cent of homicides in 2013 taking place in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. Equally important, the total number of kidnappings in 2013 decreased by 53 per cent compared with 2012. The average monthly number of reported rapes showed a slight increase to 33.8, compared with 30.5 during the previous reporting period.

12. The first half of the reporting period, marked by political tensions linked to the impasse on the electoral law, saw a 57 per cent increase in demonstrations. The majority of those, however, were triggered by socioeconomic grievances concerning inadequacies in basic services such as education, infrastructure, electricity and water supply. Most were peaceful even though they were characterized by frequent use of road barricades. By far the area most affected by civil unrest was the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, followed by the urban areas of the North, North-East and Artibonite Departments.

13. The performance of the national police continued to improve and the security situation in the five Departments vacated by the Mission's military component (Grand-Anse, Nippes, North-West, South and South-East) remained stable. Nevertheless, when the capacity of the national police was put to severe test, both by local criminal activity and heightened civil unrest, operational support by MINUSTAH forces was required.

14. In September 2013, 11 Haitian officers and 30 technicians graduated from a seven-month military engineering training course overseas. In October, a statement by the Ministry of Defense indicated that the cohort represented the start of a new corps of military engineers, as envisaged in an action plan for the restoration of a defence force developed by the Ministry for the period 2013-2016. In January 2014,

a new group of 28 technicians started their military training overseas. After their graduation, they are expected to join the ranks of the new corps of military engineers.

III. Humanitarian, recovery and economic update

15. Haiti has made progress on the humanitarian front. As at the end of 2013, 90 per cent of the population displaced by the earthquake of 2010 had left the camps, in great part as a result of the return and relocation programmes implemented by the Government, the United Nations and non-governmental partners. The overall incidence of cholera had been halved since its outbreak in late 2010 and severe food insecurity was reduced from 1.5 million affected people in early 2013 to 600,000 affected as at the end of the year.

16. Critical needs and acute vulnerabilities remain, however. According to the International Organization for Migration, as at 31 December 2013 an estimated 146,000 individuals (about 39,000 households) remain displaced in 271 sites and face protection issues and a lack of adequate access to basic services. Forced evictions driven by private landowners continued to occur from both camps for internally displaced persons and informal settlements, and were often characterized by acts of violence. The United Nations and partners continue to work with the Government to ensure that legal procedures are followed and durable solutions are provided. In 2013, less than 50 per cent of the humanitarian requirements were funded, limiting the availability of human and financial capacities needed to ensure basic services in key sectors.

17. Haiti still has the highest number of cholera cases in the world. According to the Ministry of Public Health and Population, the cholera epidemic has caused the death of 8,562 people. A total of 698,304 people were infected from October 2010 to 31 January 2014. The Pan-American Health Organization forecast as many as 45,000 infections in 2014 if current infection levels maintained. While the number of suspected cases has been reduced significantly each year, from 352,033 cases in 2011 to 58,608 cases in 2013, which is also reflected in the reduction of cholera-related deaths, the institutional fatality rates (the number of suspected cholera victims who die in cholera treatment facilities) increased in 2013 to a yearly average of 1.07 per cent, up from 0.83 per cent in 2012. That reflects weaknesses in the capacity of health centres to provide timely and adequate health services to patients affected by cholera and the longer travel time required for treatment as a result of the closure of many cholera treatment centres.

18. While recognizing improvements in the food security situation, mainly resulting from the absence of hurricanes during the reporting period, the prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children under the age of 5 increased from 5.1 per cent in 2012 to 6.5 per cent in 2013, affecting approximately 100,000 children, of which 20,000 are affected by severe acute malnutrition. As a result of continuing critical needs and the challenges faced in completing the humanitarian transition process, four clusters covering shelter, health, protection and water and sanitation have been maintained.

19. In December 2013, the International Monetary Fund assessed the economic growth rate in Haiti for fiscal year 2012/13 at 4.3 per cent, above the 3.4 per cent estimate issued in June 2013. During 2013, the Haitian economy benefited from a more favourable global economic climate, a stable macroeconomic situation and

improved weather conditions, all of which were considered to have favoured the increase in economic activity. However, a series of existing constraints continue to hinder greater economic growth, including the unstable supply of electricity, poor infrastructure, high transportation costs and difficulties in accelerating the execution rate of public investment.

IV. Activities of MINUSTAH

Provision of support to State institutions

20. During the reporting period, MINUSTAH provided technical and logistical support for the launch of the Government's "Programme d'intervention nord et nord-est", which saw the training of 112 staff from 16 municipal administrations of the North and North-East Departments. This pilot programme of the Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Communities is supported by external partners to build the capacity of selected municipalities in the delivery of basic services.

21. In December 2013, MINUSTAH provided technical support for a three-day symposium organized by the Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Communities that coached 5 departmental delegates and 38 vice-delegates on strategies to enhance the delivery of government services at the local level. From November to December, MINUSTAH, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other partners supported the departmental forums on risk and disaster management organized by the Department of Civil Protection in the North, South and Artibonite Departments.

22. MINUSTAH continued to provide technical support to Parliament. With donor support, the Mission worked with several partners, such as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNDP, to establish an office for gender equity in Parliament aimed at promoting the adoption of gender-sensitive legislation. Both houses of Parliament adopted the law against money-laundering and terrorist financing for which the Mission had been advocating. The law will help bring regulations in Haiti in line with international standards on financial compliance.

23. In close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Bar Association of Port-au-Prince, MINUSTAH supported operations in four legal aid offices that processed more than 2,000 cases during the reporting period. In an effort to raise the awareness of parliamentarians on the issue of prolonged pretrial detention, the Mission facilitated visits for parliamentarians to the national penitentiary and the women's prison of Pétion-Ville. UNDP is also providing support to the Ministry of Justice and Public Security on issues related to pretrial detention and dossier management.

24. MINUSTAH provided technical expertise on the establishment of the interministerial Technical Border Commission. The body has a three-year mandate, starting in November 2013, to secure the country's border crossing points, improve revenue collection and curb the smuggling of illicit goods and trafficking in persons, particularly women and children. The Mission also continued to advise the Ministry of Economy and Finance on the implementation of a strategic plan to rehabilitate the Customs Surveillance Directorate.

Support to the political process

25. My Special Representative for Haiti, Sandra Honoré, engaged intensively with political decision-makers to advocate for the continuity of democratic institutions, national dialogue, a consensual legislative agenda, the adoption of key legislation and progress towards the holding of the elections. My Special Representative also cooperated closely with the country's international partners, including the diplomatic corps in Port-au-Prince, to coordinate the international community's good offices efforts and to maintain momentum with regard to the Government's key priorities under its "5 E" policy programme (employment, education, environment, energy and rule of law).

Support for the forthcoming elections

26. MINUSTAH and UNDP provided technical advice throughout the legislative process leading to the adoption and promulgation of the electoral law and continued to support the work of the Electoral Council. A final consensus is required concerning the sequence of elections, which are overdue since 2010 for municipal and local offices and since 2011 for one third of the Senate. Elections for another third of the Senate as well as the renewal of the complete Chamber of Deputies are due by the end of 2014. That will ultimately define the support required from MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team. Furthermore, the Mission's consolidation will imply a more focused and strategic use of available assets in support of efforts by the national authorities. Meanwhile, the Mission has provided logistical assistance to the National Identification Office in registering new voters and distributing national identification cards using mobile registration teams throughout the country. MINUSTAH also increased its efforts to train a pool of police electoral officers as part of its handover of responsibilities to the Haitian authorities, in line with the Mission's progressive disengagement from operational support activities.

Military

27. During the reporting period, the military component of MINUSTAH continued to fulfil its primary mission of assisting the Government in ensuring a secure and stable environment, in addition to enabling the delivery of humanitarian assistance and preparing for disaster response. Several joint security operations were conducted in accordance with established procedures, whereby operations are led by the national police with support from MINUSTAH police and, when required, from the Mission's military component. Independent United Nations police and military patrolling continued to be carried out without Haitian National Police presence, an indication that further progress is required before the national police can deliver the same level of security currently provided by MINUSTAH. Cordon and search operations aimed at disrupting gang and criminal activity were conducted by the military component in the most sensitive regions of Haiti, particularly in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. The military component also executed deterrence and support operations, employing quick reaction forces, in remote and isolated areas of the country.

28. In addition to providing engineering capacity to the Mission, MINUSTAH military engineering companies continued to support government priorities aimed at

the improvement of living conditions for communities, which included well drilling, water distribution and the rehabilitation of schools and orphanages.

Police

29. The period was marked by close collaboration between the MINUSTAH police component, the Superior Council of the National Police and the Haitian National Police hierarchy to support the implementation of the national police development plan for 2012-2016 through a joint implementation mechanism. Those efforts, combined with a reinforced co-location strategy of MINUSTAH police officers with the Haitian National Police, have resulted in a more robust implementation of the plan's key priorities. In December 2013, 1,058 cadets (including 111 women) graduated, in line with the requirement of 1,000 additional officers per year to reach the plan objective of 15,000 officers in service. A new cohort of more than 1,050 officers is anticipated to start a seven-month training programme by the end of March 2014.

30. The Haitian National Police are increasingly proactive and visible, including in formerly violence-prone neighbourhoods. Crime prevention and crime fighting efforts led by the national police and supported by MINUSTAH in sensitive urban areas have resulted in a decrease in major crime indices in 2013, compared with 2012, and the dismantling of several criminal gangs. Moreover, the implementation of community-oriented policing strategies focused on crime prevention, with a particular focus on at-risk youth and women, has continued, particularly in Port-au-Prince (West Department), Les Cayes (South Department), Gonaïves (Artibonite Department) and Jacmel (South-East Department).

31. In September 2013, a new Inspector General of the Haitian National Police was appointed. Since then, the Inspectorate has begun the implementation of its strategic plan, which aims to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the oversight body by overcoming challenges such as insufficient personnel, inadequate financial resources and equipment and limited specialized training. The Inspectorate established a 24-hour telephone service enabling citizens to report cases of police misconduct such as arbitrary arrests and the excessive use of force. It also re-launched inspections and audits of units and services throughout the country.

Protection of vulnerable groups

32. The MINUSTAH military and police components maintained their presence in camps for internally displaced persons and in fragile, crime-prone urban communities where women and children are vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence. Of the remaining 271 sites for internally displaced persons, 24 high-risk camps were patrolled on a daily basis. The remaining sites were subject to random patrols. During the reporting period, the military and police components conducted 9,135 patrols in camps for internally displaced persons in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. Consistency in approach between the Mission and the United Nations country team was assured through coordination within the protection cluster.

Community violence reduction

33. MINUSTAH continued to conduct stabilization initiatives in fragile urban neighbourhoods that addressed high youth unemployment, poor infrastructure, weak security institutions and limited access to justice. The Mission tackled those issues

by supporting labour-intensive infrastructure and environmental projects, vocational training, income-generating activities, legal aid offices and safe housing solutions, which offer socioeconomic alternatives to former gang members, at-risk youth, women and vulnerable groups. The labour-intensive projects focused on watershed management, public infrastructure and canal rehabilitation, providing temporary employment to an estimated 15,000 persons considered to be at risk. Furthermore, more than 65 sensitization activities aimed at diffusing social tensions and fostering social dialogue were carried out in historically violent areas by partners that included the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Environment, the Prison Administration, the Haitian National Police, municipalities, local authorities and numerous community-based organizations. The Mission completed 42 of 48 projects planned for the 2012/13 fiscal year and initiated 29 projects for the 2013/14 fiscal year.

Justice

34. MINUSTAH supported the Superior Council of the Judiciary in the preparation of its first workplan and the drafting of its internal and financial procedures. During the past year, the Superior Council has made progress in enhancing the independence of the judiciary despite the controversial arrest and release in October 2013 of opposition lawyer André Michel, as well as the continued detention of individuals who are plaintiffs in cases alleging corruption in government circles. The Council's prerogative to certify the appointment of all judges is designed to curb those incidents of political interference. The institution has ensured that the recruitment of judges takes place primarily among graduates of the School of Magistrates, which MINUSTAH and several donors have been supporting through the training of 40 new magistrates, to be completed by mid-2014. While the Superior Council continues to experience difficulties in its deliberations, those steps are indicative of progress in strengthening the Council's institutional structure.

35. With technical and financial support from MINUSTAH and UNDP, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security continued the implementation of its action plan for 2013-2016. The Ministry's emphasis has been on infrastructure, while MINUSTAH provided technical assistance for the Ministry's efforts to establish its office on pretrial detention and improve the management of prison sentences. The Ministry has been working on the development of a national criminal justice policy to define the vision, priorities and strategies of the State in fighting crime and to determine the means and resources for the prosecution of criminal offences. MINUSTAH continued to provide technical assistance for the reopening of the Forensic Medical Institute. Specific funding for the Institute was proposed in the draft national budget for fiscal year 2013/14 and the Institute's director has been appointed by the Government.

Corrections

36. MINUSTAH provided technical and logistical support to the Prisons Administration Directorate by coordinating specialized training for junior and senior corrections officers and prison medical staff. MINUSTAH also contributed to the reduction of prolonged and illegal detention cases by assisting prison administrators in facilitating access to justice by referring cases to judicial authorities. Those efforts have resulted in the release of 215 detainees since September 2013. MINUSTAH initiated and facilitated a formal partnership between prisons and the

Ministry of Public Health and Population aimed at improving prisoner health and welfare and, in particular, mental health care services. During the reporting period, those programmes were successfully implemented in seven prisons in Jérémie (Grand-Anse Department), Jacmel (South-East Department), Anse-à-Veau (Nippes Department), Port-de-Paix (North-West Department), Saint-Marc (Artibonite Department), Fort-Liberté (North-East Department) and Les Cayes (South Department).

Human rights

37. Capacity-building in Haiti, together with monitoring and reporting on human rights, continued. One of the most notable achievements was the international accreditation on 4 December 2013 of the Haitian Office of the Ombudsperson as a National Human Rights Institution by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Moreover, the interministerial commission on human rights became operational during the reporting period.

38. Haiti's signature of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on 16 August 2013 and its adherence to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on 10 October were positive developments for which the Mission had been advocating. On 16 December, Haiti deposited the ratification instrument of the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption. In November, Haiti submitted the periodic report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, due since 2007. In addition, the initial draft report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been submitted to the interministerial commission on human rights. Another positive initiative taken by the Government was the compilation of a midterm report on the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Haiti following the universal periodic review of October 2011.

39. On 20 February 2014, the Port-au-Prince Court of Appeal issued a decision rejecting a lower court's ruling and ordering additional investigations into charges of crimes against humanity and financial crimes brought against former President Jean-Claude Duvalier.

40. Notwithstanding this progress, systemic deficiencies in human rights protection remain. They include reports of excessive use of force by the national police, the slow response by the Inspectorate General of the Haitian National Police in investigating those allegations and prolonged pretrial detention in cruel and inhuman conditions.

Gender

41. The Mission released a study in August 2013 on the response of the police and the judiciary to cases of rape. The study identified weaknesses in the courts, prosecution offices and police stations in their handling of cases, and showed that the vast majority of reported rapes are never properly adjudicated. To address the situation, MINUSTAH and UNDP supported training activities for magistrates, judicial police and police officers that included a five-day training of 283 police officers (including 31 women) on fighting and preventing sexual and gender-based violence. During the reporting period, five new offices for the management and

investigation of sexual violence cases were opened within police stations. The Haitian National Police, with the support of MINUSTAH, provided support to victims of sexual violence, including transportation to medical centres, relocation services, locating support for psychological assistance and judicial follow-up. In November, a joint national office of the Ministry for the Status of Women and Women's Rights and the Haitian National Police was inaugurated by President Martelly.

42. MINUSTAH supported advocacy efforts to promote the integration into the new electoral law of the constitutional 30 per cent minimum representation of women in public life, including through a Mission-funded national workshop held in September 2013. The electoral law includes articles on the representation of women in the electoral apparatus and in municipal and local councils. Similar to the recently promulgated law on the formation, functioning and financing of political parties, the electoral law includes financial incentives for political parties concerning the representation of women.

Child protection

43. During the reporting period, MINUSTAH received reports of 206 incidents against minors, including cases related to sexual violence (127 cases of rape and other sexual violence and 14 cases of child prostitution); 17 cases of homicide; 9 cases of physical assault and injury; 5 cases of the use of children by armed gangs; 1 case of abduction; 5 cases of child trafficking; and 28 cases of mistreatment. The reports were shared weekly with the national police and the Brigade for the Protection of Minors for follow-up. With regard to juvenile justice, MINUSTAH continued to monitor the situation of children in pretrial detention in the main detention facilities. Advocacy with the judges of the juvenile courts led to the release of six children.

HIV/AIDS

44. MINUSTAH and United Nations agencies, including UNDP through the work of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, continued supporting the national AIDS programme in its priority areas: reducing sexual transmission, eliminating mother-to-child transmission, eliminating stigma and discrimination, providing social protection to people living with HIV and eliminating sexual-based violence. During the reporting period, the guidelines for antiretroviral treatment were revised. Last December, on World AIDS Day, a workshop was held to discuss the draft law on HIV to be introduced in Parliament in early 2014.

Quick-impact projects

45. During the reporting period, a total of six quick-impact projects were completed. An additional 26 projects were under implementation, 26 were approved and 30 new projects were under examination. The projects included: measures to contain the cholera epidemic and prevent water-borne diseases (25 projects), the enhancement of safety and security in impoverished and insecure areas through the installation of public solar lighting (3 projects), support to rule of law institutions and good governance (25 projects) and rehabilitation of other public infrastructure and buildings (30 projects). The remaining five projects focused on the promotion of gender equality and vocational training.

Conduct and discipline

46. The Conduct and Discipline Unit continued to implement the integrated strategy to prevent misconduct through training sessions for 578 MINUSTAH personnel. Specific training-of-trainers sessions on the prevention of misconduct, in particular sexual exploitation and abuse, were also delivered to military and police commanders and focal points. The Mission leadership consistently delivered strong messages to all staff members to maintain the highest standards of conduct at all times, both inside and outside the Mission area.

Public information and outreach

47. During the reporting period, MINUSTAH continued to use public information as a strategic outreach tool in support of the implementation of its mandate and its conditions-based consolidation plan. Key information activities included international and national media relations, regular press conferences and releases and communication products such as the Mission's radio, website, live streaming programmes, social media presence and publications and television productions. Significant efforts directly targeted youth living in vulnerable areas of Haiti with a nationwide awareness campaign entitled "Ann Chwazi Lapè" ("Let Us Choose Peace"). The campaign focuses on citizen participation, non-violence and human rights, including ways to promote participation of women and persons living with disability in public life and decision-making processes. In parallel to those outreach activities, MINUSTAH launched a monthly television debate series with participants from government institutions, civil society and the United Nations, tackling themes such as human rights and prolonged pretrial detention.

V. Humanitarian, recovery and development activities

Coordination between the Mission and the United Nations country team

48. The United Nations country team continued to implement joint programmes in alignment with the Government-endorsed United Nations integrated strategic framework. As at 31 December 2013, the overall disbursement rate of United Nations projects funded by the Haiti Reconstruction Fund was 86 per cent.

49. In order to move forward on the implementation of the framework for coordination of external aid, a high-level technical group has been established that includes the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and members of the Group of 12 donors in Haiti. Also with the support of MINUSTAH, the Government held its first-ever national forum on non-governmental organizations on 8 October 2013. The forum brought together the Government, more than 250 organizations and members of the international community to discuss draft legislation regulating non-governmental organizations in the country and their role in national coordination structures and emergency response. The draft legislation in its current form, while aiming to promote greater alignment of aid-funded activities to national priorities, would have significant implications regarding the presence of international non-governmental organizations, which would be subject to taxation and more rigid regulations.

50. As part of the Political Champions for Disaster Resilience initiative, Haiti participated in a meeting in New York on 25 September 2013. The Government, with the support of the Political Champions, identified three Departments (North, North-East and Grand-Anse) to initiate resilience-building efforts. Significant strides were also made in the establishment of a disaster risk reduction thematic table, which has been given priority in the national framework for the coordination of external aid.

51. The humanitarian action plan for 2014 identifies a need for $169 million. The action plan is intended to seek solutions and provide basic services for the remaining internally displaced persons living in camps and to address critical needs related to the cholera epidemic, food insecurity, nutrition, protection and disaster preparedness. So far, only $6 million of the necessary funds have been received.

United Nations ongoing efforts to eliminate the cholera epidemic

52. The United Nations system in Haiti has developed a two-year, $68 million plan as a direct support to the 10-year National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti that aims to reduce infection rates by cutting cholera transmission to less than 0.5 per cent. The two-year plan focuses on four priority areas: epidemiological surveillance; health promotion; medical treatment; and water, hygiene and sanitation. The plan is intended to serve as a short-term effort to curb the disease while structural and institutional responses are built through the national plan. Delivering and sustaining better health to the women, men and children of Haiti requires an urgent, scaled-up effort to combat cholera and address decades of underinvestment in basic systems for safe water, sanitation and health care.

53. Both direct and indirect cholera-mitigating activities were executed over the reporting period, including the construction of canals and dry walls to limit flooding and the risk of waterborne disease transmission in vulnerable communities. The United Nations also trained health staff and built cholera treatment centres in at-risk locations in partnership with national authorities, including the Ministry of Public Health and Population.

VI. Update on drawdown and reconfiguration of the Mission

54. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2119 (2013), the military component continued the reduction of its personnel during the reporting period and is on target to achieve the mandated strength of 5,021 troops through a balanced withdrawal of 1,249 infantry and engineering personnel by the end of June 2014. This 15 per cent reduction in the Mission's uniform strength coincides with the planned troop rotation schedules. On 1 July 2014, the military component will consist of 21 infantry and 3 engineering companies, aviation capability and a level II hospital, and will no longer possess a maritime capability. During the reporting period, the military component redeployed a platoon from Saint-Marc to Gonaïves (Artibonite Department) and two platoons from Jacmel and Anse-à-Pitres (South-East Department) to the West Department.

55. MINUSTAH has continued working with the Government of Haiti to advance progress towards the four jointly agreed stabilization benchmarks outlined in the Mission's conditions-based consolidation plan. An update on achievements and challenges is attached to the present report (see annex I).

56. Also in accordance with Security Council resolution 2119 (2013), an integrated planning process on the post-2016 United Nations configuration in Haiti was launched, involving key national and international stakeholders, including the United Nations country team. The process will inform a future Council decision on the most appropriate United Nations configuration able to assist Haiti following the completion of the four-year consolidation process in 2016.

57. An early review of MINUSTAH and United Nations country team activities has identified the political and peacekeeping functions that are likely to remain relevant beyond 2016, including continued support for the development of the Haitian National Police, consolidation of political stabilization gains through good offices, continued strengthening of the rule of law through security sector and legislative reforms and the promotion and protection of human rights. Five broad possible configurations for their delivery are presented below.

58. The first option would entail ending the United Nations peacekeeping mandate and designating a United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti to deliver political good offices with the capacity to support a Haitian-led political process. This option entails the complete withdrawal of the military and police components and closure of all regional facilities. The Haitian National Police would have to possess the capacity to address country-wide security needs, while its continued development would have to rely on bilateral and United Nations country team support.

59. The second option foresees the end of the peacekeeping mandate and the establishment of a special political mission with a Haitian National Police development capability. The special political mission would focus on political facilitation and promotion and oversight of rule of law and human rights activities and provide continued support to police development through a minimal presence of international police officers in select locations across the country. It would entail a complete withdrawal of the military component and formed police units and the closure of all regional facilities. Also under the option, the Haitian National Police would have to possess the capacity to address country-wide security needs. Integration mechanisms with the United Nations country team would continue to provide coordinated responses to the priorities of the Government of Haiti.

60. The third option envisages ending the mandate of MINUSTAH in order to establish a new peacekeeping mission with a primarily political role and a much-reduced footprint. The smaller mission's mandate would focus fully on political facilitation, the development of the Haitian National Police, assistance with and oversight of rule-of-law activities and the promotion and protection of human rights and operational support in maintaining a stable environment. There would be a complete withdrawal of the military component, including enablers, with a continued and possibly increased country-wide presence of formed police units able to complement possible operational security shortfalls. A reduced complement of individual police officers would focus exclusively on training. Civilian regional facilities would be limited to three or four critical urban settings, while all other United Nations activities would be performed by the United Nations country team.

61. Under the fourth option, the mandate of MINUSTAH would similarly end and a new peacekeeping operation would be established under the same terms as the third option, but with the addition of a military strategic reserve force of one composite battalion for an initial period of one year. The strategic reserve force would be fully relieved of the conduct of routine security operations and garrisoned

in a single location with adequate airlift capability to transport one company throughout the country.

62. The fifth option foresees the Mission's current peacekeeping mandate adjusted to reflect the reduced scope of activities achieved through the completion of the consolidation plan. The military component would continue to progressively draw down while police deployment would initially remain unchanged. A significantly reduced civilian presence would operate in four or five of the most populated urban settings. Structural integration with the United Nations country team would continue to provide coordinated responses to the priorities of the Government of Haiti.

VII. Financial implications

63. By its resolution 67/275, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $609,187,500 for the maintenance of MINUSTAH for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. The proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 has been submitted to the Assembly for its consideration at the second part of the resumed sixty-eighth session. As at 19 February 2014, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for MINUSTAH amounted to $145.5 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to $2,019.3 million, while amounts owed to troop and formed police contributors to MINUSTAH totalled $18.5 million. Reimbursement of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs have been made for the periods up to 31 October 2013 and 30 September 2013, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

VIII. Observations

64. The reporting period initially saw an increase in civil unrest and demonstrations, many of which were attributable to socioeconomic grievances and a growing sense of impatience with regard to the continued delays in holding elections. Lingering tensions between the branches of Government added to the unrest.

65. The adoption by Parliament of the electoral law and its promulgation in December 2013 by the executive branch helped to significantly defuse tensions. Moreover, the launch on 24 January 2014 of an inter-Haitian dialogue process between the executive branch, Parliament and political parties was seen as a key step towards addressing persistent animosities over the delayed elections, a perceived weakening of democratic governance and divergent views on the need to further amend the Constitution. Those are encouraging signs, made possible by a series of concessions by the negotiating sides in an attempt to find consensual solutions to the country's recurrent political crises. I commend Haiti's political leaders for embarking on this positive political path and encourage stakeholders to nurture this process aimed at reaching a basic political accord and creating an environment conducive to socioeconomic development.

66. The holding of elections in 2014 is critical for the continuity of the country's democratic institutions. I therefore urge the authorities to spare no effort in ensuring a level playing field for the holding of transparent and inclusive elections as soon as

possible. While an incipient consensus on the type and sequence of the elections in 2014 is starting to emerge, a number of concrete steps are required from both the executive and legislative branches in preparing for the elections. In keeping with its pledge, the Government's contribution to the electoral budget is commendable. As before, the United Nations stands ready to provide the requested support to the electoral process.

67. While I welcome the accomplishments in key priority areas of the consolidation plan, such as the professionalization of the Haitian National Police, slow progress in other equally important areas risks jeopardizing some of the important achievements made to date. In particular, progress in the field of justice and accountability has lagged behind the development of the national police, creating an imbalance in the delivery of the rule of law. I am also concerned that the lack of political consensus is impeding the ability of national institutions to eventually assume full responsibility over the electoral process. In view of the consolidation of MINUSTAH, it has become imperative for the national authorities to assume greater responsibility in establishing the rule of law and in preparations for the next elections.

68. Despite those challenges, considerable progress has been made in the stabilization of Haiti since the Mission's initial deployment in 2004. I am therefore confident that Haiti and its partners can firmly move ahead with the ongoing consolidation process, mindful of the security requirements for the Presidential elections scheduled for November 2015, while at the same time explore the best way to continue contributing to greater stability and development beyond 2016. The future United Nations presence in Haiti should ensure, through a more tailored mandate and a lighter footprint, the consolidation of gains in security and capacity-building achieved since the deployment of MINUSTAH while still being able to complement possible operational shortfalls in security. If the current level of progress is sustained, the need to invoke Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations in a future mandate could be revisited.

69. A full scale, United Nations-wide strategic assessment will be carried out to provide an updated, in-depth assessment of conditions on the ground as they relate to the five possible configurations I have presented in the present report in broad terms. The findings of the strategic assessment will be reflected in a subsequent report to the Security Council, which will also include my recommendations regarding the most appropriate option for Haiti at that juncture. In the period leading up to the Council's decision, MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team will continue to work closely with the Haitian authorities to intensify ongoing efforts for the handover of the Mission's functions to the Government. Should conditions on the ground allow, an accelerated transition to a new United Nations configuration in Haiti could be considered.

70. It is critically important for Haiti and the international community to redouble current efforts to continue improving the humanitarian situation, in particular with regard to the ongoing cholera epidemic. In that regard, in late August 2013 I appointed a Senior Coordinator for Cholera Response in Haiti with the objective of ensuring effective support to the national cholera response strategy. I also initiated the establishment within MINUSTAH of an Integrated Solutions Support Unit to assist in the coordination of all United Nations cholera-related activities. In order to build upon the progress made in 2013, I call upon Member States and partners to

provide the urgently required funds for the Organization's two-year plan in direct support of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti.

71. In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my Special Representative, Sandra Honoré, for her service in support of Haiti at a time when the Mission is undergoing its reconfiguration. I would also like to thank the women and men of MINUSTAH, troop- and police-contributing countries and the United Nations country team and their partners for their continued dedication and commitment to stability and development in Haiti.

Annex I

Progress in the consolidation of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

In my report to the Security Council of 8 March 2013 (S/2013/139), I outlined the conditions-based consolidation plan of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which identifies four stabilization benchmarks that constitute the framework of the operationalization of the Mission's consolidation. The present annex provides an update on progress made during the reporting period towards the achievement of those four stabilization benchmarks.

Key achievements

Police development

MINUSTAH focused its support to augment Haitian National Police capacity, in line with the country's police development plan for 2012-2016. Achievements on the key benchmarks of the consolidation plan on police development are set out below.

- In December 2013, 1,058 cadets (including 111 women) graduated from training, which is in line with the requirement of 1,000 additional officers per year to reach the development plan objective of 15,000 officers in service. A new cohort of more than 1,050 officers is anticipated to start a seven-month training programme in March 2014.
- In accordance with the consolidation plan, the national police school is operating at full capacity with 98 national instructors. With regard to the senior management capacities of the national police, 41 Commissaires graduated in October 2013 from the national police school. Furthermore, a new cohort of 38 Commissaires began their six-month training programme in November 2013.
- At the time of reporting, the strength of the Haitian National Police assigned to the regions beyond the greater metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince stood at 32.5 per cent, close to the one third target. Half of the complement of police officers in the regions received crowd control training during the reporting period.
- In order to improve the ability of the police force to effectively manage itself, the revision of procedures for standing offers, allocations and supply chain has been under way since October 2013. During the reporting period, 87 police facilities were constructed or renovated and the vehicle fleet received 194 new vehicles and motorcycles. The procedures for asset and equipment maintenance were also improved.
- A total of 4,291 officers (38.2 per cent of the national police force) are assigned to specialized units, including corrections, community-oriented policing, crowd control, criminal investigations, traffic, response to sexual and gender-based violence, human rights, the coast guard and border management.

- During the past two years the Government of Haiti has increased the proportion of the national budget allocated to the national police. For fiscal year 2013/14, the forecasted budget of the Haitian National Police is $153.9 million. The Chamber of Deputies has approved an amount of $157.5 million and a final allocation is pending adoption of the budget by the Senate.

Electoral capacity-building

The Mission's objective is to create conditions that will allow the Government of Haiti to assume full responsibility for the electoral process following the next presidential elections, scheduled for 2015.

- Because elections were not held in 2011, 2012 and 2013, constitutional deadlines were not respected.
- Although a Permanent Electoral Council was not established, a transitional Electoral Council was formed on 19 April 2013 and an Executive Director was nominated on 13 January 2014.
- The Government of Haiti has pledged approximately one third of the provisional electoral budget. In the light of the provisions of the 2013 electoral law and the sequence and type of elections to be held in 2014, the planned budget may need to be revised.
- With regard to the capabilities of Haitian authorities to progressively assume full responsibility for electoral logistics and security, discussions between MINUSTAH and the Electoral Council on the matter are at an early stage owing to the fact that a formal agreement has not yet been reached on the sequence and timing of elections in 2014.

Rule of law and human rights

MINUSTAH is focusing its activities on supporting the work of the Government to strengthen rule of law accountability and oversight mechanisms and to advance crucial legislative reform.

- While the rules of internal procedures of the Superior Council of the Judiciary have been drafted, they have not yet been adopted by the members of the Council.
- With regard to the establishment of the Judicial Inspectorate of the Superior Council of the Judiciary and other administrative structures of its secretariat, the recruitment process for a Director and judicial inspectors has begun.
- Gender considerations have been taken into account in the recruitment of new student magistrates currently being trained at the School of Magistrates, resulting in a student body that is 37 per cent women.
- No positive developments have been identified with regard to the capacity of the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes to handle an increased caseload. At present, 7 of the 10 members proposed by the Senate have been confirmed by the President.
- The Office of the Ombudsperson is operational and adequately funded through the State budget and has representation throughout the entire territory.

- Drafts of the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been proposed to the Government. Regarding the Criminal Code, a competing draft has been prepared by the President's Commission on Legislative Reform. Neither version has yet been presented to Parliament for adoption.
- At the time of writing, the Anti-Corruption Unit has the ability to investigate cases. An anti-corruption law is pending adoption by the Parliament that would confer enforcement powers upon the Unit, which it currently lacks.
- The vetting process for the Haitian National Police is progressing and 4,992 police officers and civilian staff have been certified. An additional 3,201 cases are near to completion. Background checks for new officers are conducted jointly by the Inspectorate General and the MINUSTAH police component prior to their graduation from the national police school.
- In February 2014, the Inspectorate General published its first annual report since 2008, documenting 78 cases that were opened against police officers for various misconduct and human rights violations. So far, 14 of those officers have been dismissed from the police force, and appropriate sanctions have been applied in 14 other cases. Twenty-eight cases were considered unfounded.

Key governance issues

The Mission's objective is to promote dialogue on a minimum political consensus regarding elections and the legislative agenda and to support the strengthening of State institutions at the central and local level.

- National political stakeholders engaged in a mediated dialogue process focused on democratic governance, elections and constitutional amendments.
- Policy proposals outlining short-, medium- and long-term governance and human rights priorities by civil society organizations in six Departments (North-East, Artibonite, South-East, Grand-Anse, South and West) were finalized and presented to the Haitian authorities.

Annex II

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti: countries providing military staff and contingents (as at 10 February 2014)

	Staff officers		*Troops*		
Country	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*	*Males*	*Total*
Argentina		11	40	521	572
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		3	12	193	208
Brazil		18	14	1 402[a]	1 434[b]
Canada	2	3		2	7
Chile		3	18	436	457
El Salvador		1		34	35
Ecuador		1	1	51	53
France		2			2
Guatemala		2	11	122	135
Honduras				1[c]	1
Indonesia		1		167	168
Jordan		10		241	251
Nepal		13		21	34
Paraguay		3	5	109	117
Peru		6	23	344	373
Philippines	1	1	11	146	159
Republic of Korea	1	1			2
Sri Lanka		11		850	861
United States of America	1	7			8
Uruguay		10	40	887	937
Total	**5**	**107**	**175**	**5 527**	**5 814**

[a] Including one Bolivian attached to the Brazilian contingent.
[b] The Force Commander is employed on a United Nations contract and hence is not reflected in the troop strength.
[c] Attached to the Chilean battalion.

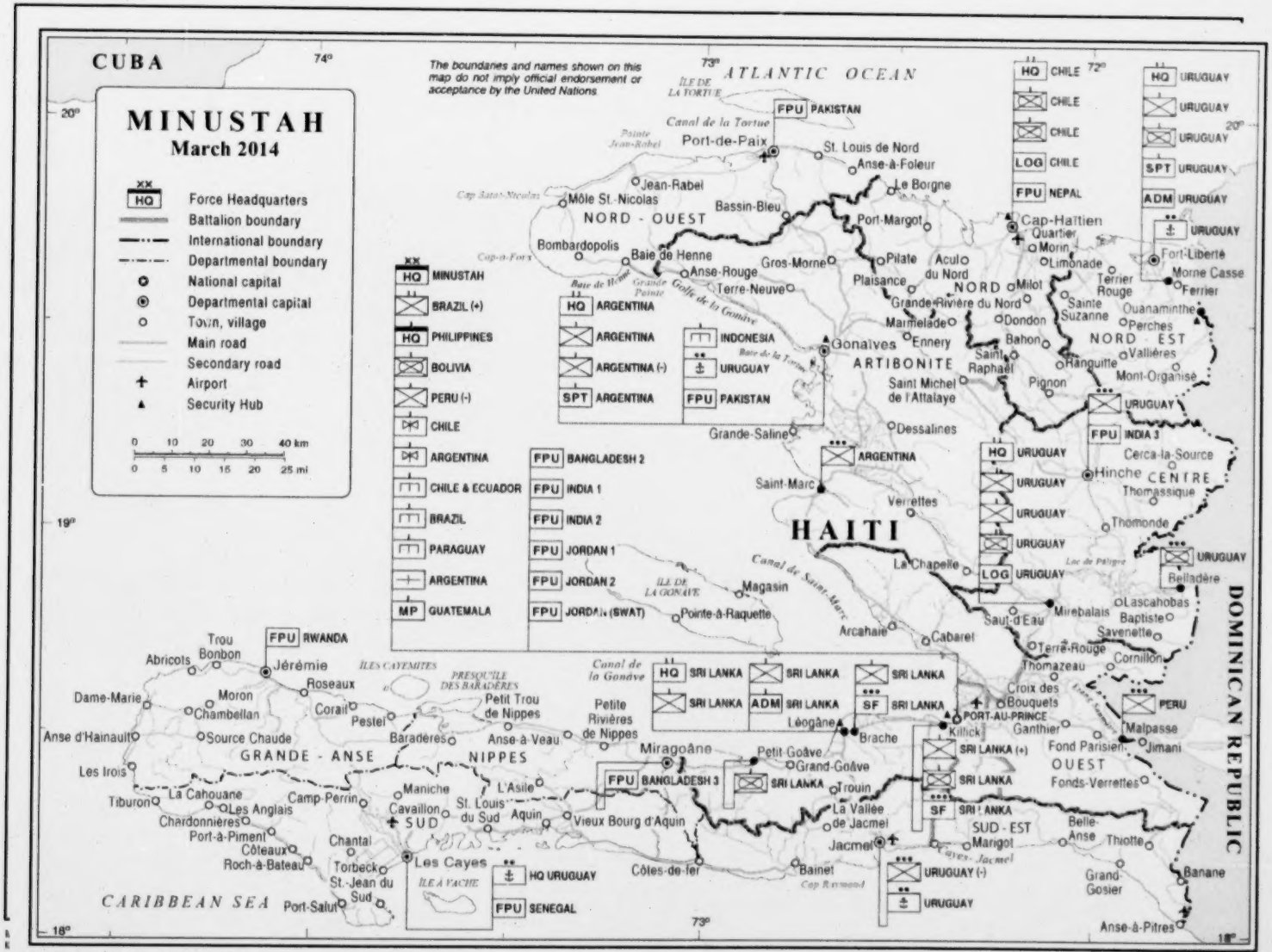
Annex III

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti: composition and strength of the police (as at 11 February 2014)

Country	*Number of United Nations police*		*Number of formed police units*	
	Female	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
Argentina	1	11	–	–
Bangladesh	–	5	104	212
Benin	1	40	–	–
Brazil	2	8	–	–
Burkina Faso	20	35	–	–
Burundi	8	35	–	–
Cameroon	5	29	–	–
Canada	10	71	–	–
Central African Republic	–	1	–	–
Chad	–	5	–	–
Chile	2	12	–	–
China	–	–	–	–
Colombia	1	26	–	–
Côte d'Ivoire	7	125	–	–
Croatia	–	5	–	–
Egypt	–	16	–	–
El Salvador	–	–	–	–
France	2	20	–	–
Grenada	–	2	–	–
Guinea	–	15	–	–
Guinea-Bissau	–	–	–	–
India	–	5	1	419
Indonesia	–	–	–	–
Italy	–	–	–	–
Jamaica	–	–	–	–
Jordan	–	11	–	278
Kyrgyzstan	–	1	–	–
Lithuania	–	1	–	–
Madagascar	–	–	–	–
Mali	2	35	–	–
Nepal	–	2	9	131
Niger	10	41	–	–
Nigeria	2	1	–	–
Norway	4	2	–	–

Country	Number of United Nations police		Number of formed police units	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Pakistan	–	–	–	139
Paraguay	–	1	–	–
Philippines	3	10	–	–
Portugal	–	1	–	–
Romania	3	20	–	–
Russian Federation	1	8	–	–
Rwanda	4	9	14	126
Senegal	1	5	11	129
Serbia	–	–	–	–
Sierra Leone	–	–	–	–
Spain	–	9	–	–
Sri Lanka	3	5	–	–
Sweden	–	–	–	–
Timor-Leste	–	–	–	–
Togo	–	–	–	–
Tunisia	1	13	–	–
Turkey	–	12	–	–
Thailand	3	4	–	–
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	–	1	–	–
United States of America	8	52	–	–
Uruguay	–	4	–	–
Vanuatu	–	2	–	–
Yemen	–	18	–	–
	104	734	139	1 434
Subtotal	**838**		**1 573**	
Total	**2 411**			

MINUSTAH map as at March 2014



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The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/11 and Security Council resolution 2096 (2013), in which the Council requested me to report on developments in Afghanistan every three months.

2. The report provides an update on the activities of the United Nations in Afghanistan, including significant humanitarian, development and human rights efforts, since the issuance of my previous report, of 6 December 2013 (A/68/645-S/2013/721). It also provides a summary of key political and security developments and regional and international events related to Afghanistan. The annex contains an assessment of progress made towards benchmarks and indicators since the issuance of my report of 5 March 2013 (A/67/778-S/2013/133), in line with Security Council resolution 1868 (2009).

II. Relevant developments

3. On 17 January, four members of the United Nations family in Afghanistan were killed in an attack on a restaurant in Kabul. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the assault, which took the lives of our colleagues Vadim Nazarov (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)), Wabel Abdallah (International Monetary Fund) and Nasreen Khan and Basra Hassan (United Nations Children's Fund), together with 17 other Afghan and international civilians. The years of conflict in Afghanistan have brought tragedy to many. Here, I pay special tribute to the dedication of these international civil servants. Given the planned transfer of responsibility for support for UNAMA from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to the Department of Political Affairs, my Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, paid a familiarization visit

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to Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif between 13 and 15 February. He delivered a message of sympathy following the 17 January attack and expressed appreciation for the staff of UNAMA.

A. Political developments

4. Preparations for the upcoming elections remain on track for the scheduled polling date of 5 April. The formal campaign period for the presidential elections began on 2 February and that for provincial councils on 4 March. Vigorous political activity can be observed throughout the country.

5. On 5 January, President Hamid Karzai convened a meeting of all 11 presidential candidates at which he stressed the need for transparent elections and emphasized his commitment to non-interference by the Government in the process. Since the start of the campaign period, candidates' banners and billboards have lined the roadways and large-scale rallies have been taking place in Kabul and throughout the country. A unique feature compared with previous elections in Afghanistan has been the number of televised debates, nine as at 25 February, providing candidates with opportunities to explain their views on diverse topics.

6. Election-related violence included an assassination attempt on vice-presidential candidate Ismail Khan, formerly Minister of Water and Energy and Governor of Herat, on 24 January. This was followed by the fatal shooting of two members of the campaign team of presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah in Herat on 1 February, with a third killed in Sari Pul on 7 February. The convoy of Mr. Abdullah came under gunfire when returning to Kabul from Nangarhar on 19 February; he was unhurt. Despite those incidents, a strategic threat to the elections has not emerged. In a significant political development that occurred in early January, the leader of the armed opposition wing of Hezb-e Islami, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, instructed supporters to participate in the elections. On 16 February, a spokesperson for the group stated that the party supported the presidential candidacy of former senior party official Qutbuddin Helal, who is standing as an independent candidate.

7. Technical preparations for the elections remain further advanced than those for previous polls held in Afghanistan. By 31 January, the Ministry of the Interior completed a security risk assessment of 7,168 polling centres initially proposed by the Independent Election Commission. The Ministry concluded that Afghan security forces could secure 94 per cent of polling centres, although 796 of them were considered to be high-risk. On 19 February, the Commission, having considered this security advice and drawn on its own assessments, announced a list of 6,775 polling centres, with 21,663 polling stations (12,705 for men and 8,958 for women). The movement of electoral materials to the provinces began on 12 February. Furthermore, by 14 February the Commission's top-up registration exercise had distributed an additional 3.5 million voter cards to those who had reached 18 years of age, lost their voter cards or moved since the holding of previous polls. Approximately 35 per cent of those receiving new cards were women. In order to support a maximum franchise, this exercise will continue at the provincial level until two weeks prior to polling day.

8. On 6 January, the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission referred allegations of serious human rights violations, war crimes and/or corruption against five presidential candidates to the Attorney-General's Office for further

investigation. On 15 January, the latter announced that the files had been closed owing to a lack of evidence. Scrutiny by the Commission of the eligibility of the 2,713 provincial council candidates continued. On 26 January, the Commission announced 25 disqualifications based on educational and/or age criteria, with an additional 19 on 16 February. This new institution continued to establish its infrastructure and organizational capacity. An interim strategic and operational plan was presented to donors on 16 January, and procedures for the registration, filing and adjudication of electoral challenges and complaints were published on 4 February. On 11 February, President Karzai approved the appointment of 102 provincial complaints commissioners. Of concern is the low number of women appointed (only six of the total) despite the efforts made to increase female representation.

9. On 22 January, the Media Commission, a temporary body established for the electoral period, issued amended regulations governing the conduct of media entities during the elections, and on 29 January it launched a series of 10 regional workshops to explain its mandate and regulations to media practitioners. Electoral observation will be undertaken mainly by Afghan groups, complemented by international missions at the request of Afghan authorities. As at 2 February, the Independent Election Commission had accredited 1,027 domestic observers (from 53 domestic observation entities) and 106 international observers (from 3 international observation entities), as well as 135 political party agents (from 24 parties). A total of 519 media representatives (375 domestic and 144 international) have also been accredited. Between 13 and 24 January, a European Union exploratory team visited Afghanistan, and on 23 January the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe published its exploratory team report, which foresees the deployment of a 15-member election support team.

10. Progress towards the establishment of a formal peace process with the armed opposition remained limited. On 22 December, a statement attributable to the Taliban denied reports that the former deputy leader Mullah Abdullah Ghani Baradar, who remains in Pakistan following his release from prison, was authorized to engage in formal dialogue on its behalf. On 12 February, a former Taliban-era official, Agha Jan Mutasim, announced that several leaders of the movement had met in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and agreed to launch an "intra-Afghan dialogue" to include the Government of Afghanistan, the Taliban and other insurgent groups. On 15 February, Afghanistan's High Peace Council, followed a day later by the Afghan National Security Council, welcomed Mutasim's announcement. On 19 February, a Taliban statement denied participation in the Dubai meeting or engagement in any type of peace talks with Afghan authorities and stated that Mutasim was not currently an official of the movement and did not represent it.

11. As at 31 December, the joint secretariat of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme reported that a total of 7,796 individuals had joined the Programme and that 164 small grants projects in 25 provinces had been approved, providing short-term employment opportunities. In continuing efforts to support an environment conducive to peace, a High Peace Council delegation visited Saudi Arabia between 28 December and 2 January to attend an Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting of religious scholars. There was a positive response from OIC to the Council's proposal to form a working group of international ulema to counter religious narratives that fuel militant violence in Afghanistan. On 21 January, the Council's women's committee launched a nationwide campaign, entitled "Afghan Women's Call for Ceasefire and Peace", to collect 300,000

signatures demanding the cessation of armed hostilities. UNAMA meanwhile continued to facilitate local dialogue to mitigate inter-ethnic and intertribal tensions and to build confidence among communities. Gatherings were held in Jawzjan, Kunduz, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Paktya and Takhar Provinces, with the participation of local government officials, traditional community leaders and civil society. In January, UNAMA also launched a series of seminars to promote the role of Afghan ulema in supporting the peaceful conduct of elections, drawing together clerics and religious scholars from Badghis, Ghor, Herat, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar and Nuristan Provinces.

12. Afghanistan's bilateral security agreement with the United States of America remained unsigned. President Karzai continued to assert the conditions he had enumerated at the conclusion of the consultative loya jirga in November, including the official launch of a peace process. On 21 December, negotiations were initiated between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Afghanistan on a status-of-forces agreement to provide a legal framework for a post-2014 training and advisory mission. NATO has stated that this can be concluded only after the signature of a bilateral accord with the United States.

13. On 13 February, the Government of Afghanistan released 65 prisoners previously transferred to its authority by the United States. The Embassy of the United States in Kabul condemned the release of what it termed "dangerous detainees" linked to serious crimes, as contrary to commitments under a 2012 memorandum of understanding. On 17 February, Abdul Raqib Takhari, a former Taliban minister of repatriation who had been listed pursuant to the 1988 Security Council sanctions regime, was killed in Peshawar. The Government of Afghanistan described him as a "martyr of peace" and transported his body to his home province of Takhar for burial.

B. Security developments

14. The security situation in Afghanistan remained volatile. The United Nations recorded 20,093 security incidents in Afghanistan in 2013, making the year second only to 2011 in terms of the level of violence seen since the fall of the Taliban regime. Of those incidents, 70 per cent were reported in the east, the south-east and, in particular, the south. Kandahar Province was the site of 13 per cent of all incidents occurring in 2013. Tactically, armed clashes and improvised explosive devices represented 75 per cent of total incidents in 2013, with armed clashes up 51 per cent compared with 2012. Afghan forces have proved to be capable of defending territory from attacks by anti-government elements and regaining ground, although with significant casualties. One example is a 23 February insurgent attack in Kunar Province, in which at least 19 Afghan National Army soldiers were killed, with 6 remaining missing. The increment in armed clashes is understood to be a consequence of greater operational tempo on the part of Afghan security forces and focused attacks by anti-government elements on Afghan forces during the transition. Throughout 2013, provinces in the east and south faced intensified attacks from an array of groups, including Tehrik-e-Taliban, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, in addition to the Afghan Taliban. In northern Afghanistan, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan continued to operate in remote and mountainous districts and to present a serious challenge to peace, security and stability. The tactical use of suicide bombing by the armed opposition continued, with 107 such incidents

occurring in Afghanistan in 2013, of which 18 were in Kabul, compared with 101 in 2012, of which 7 were in Kabul.

15. As of mid-January, the personnel of the Afghan National Army numbered 193,427, which included 7,300 military personnel serving in the Afghan Air Force. Remaining shortfalls were largely at the strategic and budget management levels, along with specialized capabilities including aviation, the countering of improvised explosive devices, and intelligence. The attrition rate, at some 34 percent during 2013, continues to be a major concern. On 8 January, the Ministry of the Interior opened its first specialized training school on the defusing of improvised explosive devices, with the aim of instructing approximately 1,500 police personnel annually. On 14 January, Colonel Jamila Baez was appointed police chief of a district in Kabul, the first female to have been appointed to such a post. With only about 1 per cent of police personnel being women, on 21 January the Ministry launched a strategy for better integration of female personnel into the Afghan National Police, with protection measures to prevent abuse. The Ministry is also to train 13,000 female searchers to work in polling centres on election day. As of the end of 2013, the United Nations-administered Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan channelled the salaries of 145,199 police.

16. Separately, the Afghan Local Police security initiative continued to expand, with 27,000 personnel in 142 districts by mid-February, with plans to expand to 30,000 by the end of 2014. Nine per cent of all security incidents in 2013 were directed against its personnel. Often stationed in volatile areas and sometimes deployed in roles for which they are ill equipped and insufficiently trained, they can represent an easy target. There are reports from many communities of improved security owing to the presence of the Afghan Local Police. At the same time, UNAMA continued to document human rights violations committed by some members of the Local Police, including summary execution and punishment, intimidation, illegal searches and extortion. Between 1 November 2013 and 31 January 2014, UNAMA recorded 14 civilians killed and 18 injured by the Afghan Local Police, a fourfold increase compared with the same period in 2012/13.

17. As regards security-related developments that have a negative impact on both the Afghan population and the ability of the United Nations to carry out mandated tasks and activities, the reporting period saw unprecedented numbers of security incidents. This was at least partly the consequence of abnormally mild weather conditions, which meant that the operations of all parties were less hampered than normal. From 16 November 2013 to 15 February 2014, 4,649 security incidents were recorded, representing a 24 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2012/13. Thirty-five suicide attacks were recorded between 16 November 2013 and 15 February 2014, compared with 17 during the same period in 2012/13. Ten of these took place in the capital, compared with five during the same period in the previous year. The 17 January coordinated attack on a Kabul restaurant, which claimed the lives of four members of the United Nations family, was the deadliest attack on foreign civilians since 2001: 13 international and 8 Afghan civilians were killed. The Taliban took responsibility for the attack. Another 21 security incidents, directly or indirectly affecting the United Nations, were recorded between 16 November 2013 and 15 February 2014. Most were criminal acts or acts of intimidation directed at national staff. Two United Nations convoys were fired upon in Nangarhar, injuring three police escorts, and a UNAMA helicopter sustained slight damage under small arms fire en route to Gardez.

18. Throughout 2013, the number of incidents involving mines and explosive remnants of war increased, with 455 casualties, including 129 deaths, recorded, compared with 367 casualties and 91 deaths in 2012. During the reporting period, mine action partners supported by the United Nations cleared 28 battlefields and 214 minefields in 31 communities, with an additional three districts declared mine-free. An estimated 4,171 minefields remained across 33 provinces. In addition to addressing the legacy of previous conflict, the United Nations is developing a strategy with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to dispose of the explosive remnants of war from military bases, firing and demolition ranges, sites where air munitions have been used and recent battlefield sites. Key to this strategy will be a definition of the scope of the issue. To date, ISAF has provided the United Nations with coordinates for 231 airdrop and battlefield sites and 331 firing ranges.

C. Regional cooperation

19. Afghanistan continues to actively engage its neighbours and to promote regional cooperation. This includes its lead role in the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan, the pursuit of strengthened political dialogue, and progress on confidence-building measures. On 17 January, India hosted a senior officials' meeting in New Delhi. "Heart of Asia" member States and supporting countries and organizations focused on issues of security, including the movement of extremist elements and the importance of regional energy cooperation for economic development and stability, as well as on reviewing progress on the six agreed confidence-building measures and funding modalities for the Process. Between 2 and 11 February, as part of the disaster management confidence-building measure, Japan hosted officials from Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Turkey to share information and best practices. Between 26 and 27 February, Afghanistan hosted a terrorism financing seminar as part of the counter-terrorism confidence-building measure. Preparations are also under way for the sixth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, to be hosted in Kabul on 26 March.

20. There are also ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between Afghanistan and other countries in the region. On 8 December, President Karzai visited Tehran and agreed with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, that their countries would work towards a comprehensive friendship and cooperation pact covering long-term political, security, economic and cultural cooperation and regional peace and security. On 26 February, on the sidelines of a meeting of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Tehran, the Chair of the Wolesi Jirga met with the speaker of the Majlis of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On 12 December, President Karzai visited India, where, together with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, he emphasized Afghanistan's commitment to regional cooperation, integration and development, including through the Istanbul Process. The two leaders also pledged support, together with the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the development of new trade and transit routes. This was followed by a visit of the Minister of External Affairs of India to Kandahar on 15 February to inaugurate the Afghanistan National Agricultural Sciences and Technology University with President Karzai. On 7 February, on the sidelines on the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russian Federation, President Karzai met the President of China, Xi Jinping, who affirmed China's willingness to continue to assist Afghanistan's

reconstruction and encourage investment. He also reiterated support for smooth presidential elections and an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned national reconciliation process. On 22 February, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of China visited Kabul and met with President Karzai and other senior officials. On 13 February, President Karzai travelled to Ankara for the eighth Trilateral Summit with the President of Turkey and the Prime Minister of Pakistan. A joint statement welcomed the "positive momentum" in bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, including strengthened trade and economic relations. The need for continued regional and international development cooperation in support of the stabilization of Afghanistan was underscored. On 22 February, the Minister of Finance of Pakistan led a high-level delegation to Kabul for the ninth session of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission and also visited a number of projects in Afghanistan completed with Pakistani assistance.

21. My Special Representative, Ján Kubiš, continued his mandated regional cooperation outreach activities. On 13 December, he visited Ashgabat, where he met with the President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, and discussed the importance of humanitarian access and infrastructure projects to Afghanistan. On 22 January, he attended a meeting of Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Moscow, and discussed shared threats, including drug trafficking and terrorist groups, as well as the need to increase cross-border trade and investment. Between 23 and 25 February, he visited Islamabad for consultations with the Government of Pakistan.

III. Human rights

22. On 8 February 2014, UNAMA released its Annual Report 2013 on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict. The report documented 2,959 civilian deaths and 5,656 civilian injuries (8,615 civilian casualties) in 2013, a 14 per cent overall increase compared with 2012, with a 7 per cent increase in the number of civilian deaths. The report attributed 74 per cent of all civilian casualties in 2013 to anti-government elements (2,311 civilian deaths and 4,063 injuries) and 11 per cent to pro-government forces (8 per cent to Afghan forces and 3 per cent to international military forces, with 341 deaths and 615 injuries). Ten per cent of the total was attributed to ground engagements between anti-government elements and pro-government forces with civilians killed in the crossfire, and the remaining 5 per cent resulted mainly from explosive remnants of war. Both of these sources of civilian casualties represented growing trends in 2013.

23. Between 1 November and 31 January, UNAMA documented 572 civilian deaths and 1,066 civilian injuries, reflecting an increase of 15 per cent in civilian casualties compared with the same period in 2012/13. Anti-government elements were responsible for 76 per cent of civilian casualties and pro-government forces for 9 per cent during this period. The remaining 15 per cent of civilian casualties could not be attributed to any party, stemming primarily from ground engagements, cross-border shelling or explosive remnants of war.

24. The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on Children and Armed Conflict continued to receive reports of incidents involving grave violations of child rights. Between 1 November and 31 January, 104 children were killed and 254 injured as a result of conflict. The detonation of improvised explosive devices was

the leading cause of child casualties, resulting in 48 deaths and 67 injuries. Ground engagements, which include crossfire, shooting, artillery, rocket, mortar and hand grenade attacks, killed 37 children and injured 133. Unexploded ordnance, explosive remnants of war and landmines claimed the lives of 13 children and injured 41.

25. On 8 December, UNAMA released a report entitled "A way to go: an update on implementation of the law on elimination of violence against women in Afghanistan". The report, which was based on consultations with 200 officials and the monitoring of nearly 500 cases of violence against women in 18 provinces between October 2012 and September 2013, contained mixed results. The registration of reported incidents had increased by 28 per cent compared with the previous 12-month period, yet the use of the 2009 law as a basis for indictment and conviction had increased by only 2 per cent. Overall, the number of criminal indictments filed by prosecutors in cases of violence against women had decreased. On 1 March, the Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs launched the Government's own report on the status of the implementation of the law in line with its commitments under the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework. Based on research conducted in 32 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, it echoed many of the Mission's findings. The availability of baseline data is a critical element in the development and implementation of a government action plan to address identified gaps. Concerns were expressed over article 26 of the criminal procedure code, as approved by the National Assembly, which barred the questioning of family members of the accused as witnesses, thus preventing the effective prosecution of many cases of violence against women. On 23 February, President Karzai endorsed the code and then amended the language in article 26 that barred the testimony of relatives, through legislative decree.

26. On 28 January, the findings of the five-yearly accreditation review of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission were published, with a decision on its status deferred for one year. The International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions, while expressing great respect for the Commission's work and effectiveness, noted with concern the Government's process of appointing new commissioners, the staff gender ratios and the dependence on donor funding. The Committee stressed the need for the Commission to address those concerns with the Government of Afghanistan by November 2014, failing which it would be recommended for a downgrading to "B" status.

27. UNAMA continued to visit Afghan-run detention facilities to observe the treatment of conflict-related detainees. During the reporting period, 54 places of detention run by the National Directorate of Security, the Afghan National Police, the Central Prisons Directorate and the Afghan National Army in 20 provinces were visited. Afghanistan's general prison population grew from 12,000 in 2008 to 29,000 in January 2014, with a growing number of hunger strikes over conditions of detention as well as inconsistent application of prisoner releases. Female prisoners in Mazar-e Sharif staged a three-day strike in January, claiming that male prisoners accused of serious crimes had been released while their cases, many involving "moral crimes" unsupported by the law, were not being addressed. During the same month, 22 prisoners in Ghor Province protested their sentences. UNAMA and specialized agencies are working to improve training and prison infrastructure, with an initial focus on Takhar, Jawzjan, Kunduz and Kabul Provinces.

IV. Implementation of the Kabul process and coordination of development assistance

28. On 15 January, Afghanistan's national budget for the fiscal year 1393 (21 December 2013 to 20 December 2014) was approved by the lower house of the National Assembly, or Wolesi Jirga. Of a total of $7.6 billion, 65 per cent is allocated to operating costs and 35 per cent to development. The security sector alone absorbs $3.4 billion. On 11 February, the Ministry of Finance announced the allocation of $1 million to five provinces under its pilot provincial budgeting programme. The outcome of the pilot will be used to evaluate prospects for the implementation of a more general, decentralized fiscal policy.

29. The participants in the 29 January special meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board assessed progress made in the fulfilment of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework commitments and initiated a forward-looking agenda in anticipation of a ministerial development conference on Afghanistan to be held later in 2014. UNAMA facilitated civil society engagement with the process, as well as discussions between the Government and the international community on the preparation of a joint report on progress made in terms of hard deliverables. To encourage continuity of the Afghan economic and development agendas during the political transition, the 11 presidential candidates were invited to attend the meeting as observers. International representatives reaffirmed their long-term commitment to Afghanistan while linking this to continued momentum on good governance and a rights-based agenda, in particular protection of the gains made in the areas of human rights and women's rights. Accelerated economic and development progress, including the meeting of key anti-corruption commitments and International Monetary Fund benchmarks, together with efforts to address the illicit economy, were stressed as critical to Afghanistan's greater self-reliance. The Government reassured international partners of its commitment to the electoral timetable and, in turn, sought improvements in donor accountability and commitment to its aid management policy. Nearly all presidential candidates pledged to continue the progress made under the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework.

30. The World Bank provided an overview of Afghanistan's current economic outlook. Afghanistan remains extraordinarily aid-dependent. After a bumper agricultural harvest in 2012, growth slowed to an estimated 3.1 per cent in 2013, with revenue collection weakening to 9.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). The latter is understood to be due both to the economic slowdown and to continued weakness in enforcement. Economic uncertainty is also seen, for the first time, in the 43 per cent decline in the number of newly registered firms in the first seven months of 2013. Formidable challenges remain in the areas of poverty reduction, job creation and service delivery. Per capita GDP remains the lowest in Asia and among the bottom 20 in the world, literacy levels stand at approximately 25 per cent, and there is the pressure of some 400,000 new entrants to the labour market every year. On 19 January, in a bid to increase the country's skilled workforce, the Ministries of Education and of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, together with the United Nations, launched Afghanistan's first technical and vocational education and training strategy, aimed at building the necessary human resources for the country.

31. The Mission's rule-of-law efforts are increasingly focused on land disputes and management. In January, at the request of the Afghanistan Land Authority, UNAMA began co-chairing a land management working group. The group brings

together international donors and implementers of land reform and land-related programmes, advocating workable solutions to protracted disputes that have contributed to displacement in many parts of the country.

V. Humanitarian assistance

32. On 16 December, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, launched the global humanitarian plans for 2014, including a funding request of $406 million for Afghanistan. The Common Humanitarian Action Plan for Afghanistan estimates that 5.4 million people will require access to health services this year, including emergency trauma care, which is a top priority, given needs that currently dramatically exceed response capacity. The Plan also prioritizes the provision of assistance to 2.2 million people assessed as very severely food insecure. The third group identified as having acute unmet needs are internally displaced persons.

33. In 2013, 124,000 persons were recorded as newly displaced as a result of conflict, reflecting a 25 per cent increase compared with 2012. This brought the cumulative total of internally displaced persons in Afghanistan recorded by the United Nations to more than 630,000, from 20 of the 34 provinces. Helmand, Maidan Wardak, Faryab and Nangarhar Provinces recorded the highest levels of displacement, reflecting increased ground engagements. Moreover, continuing drought in the western region contributed to the displacement of some 1,000 families at the end of 2013, many initially to Chaghcharan, in Ghor Province, and then to Herat. Between mid-December 2013 and mid-February 2014, winter assistance was provided to vulnerable populations, including 35,000 internally displaced persons, in Wardak, Nuristan, Ghor, Ghazni, Paktya and Faryab Provinces and to another 30,000 people in informal settlements in and around Kabul, Mazar-e Sharif and Herat. On 11 February, the Government of Afghanistan, with United Nations support, launched the national policy on internal displacement. It set forth the roles and responsibilities of various Government ministries and agencies and their development and humanitarian partners, including the United Nations. An implementation strategy is now to be developed. The return of refugees to Afghanistan declined by 59 per cent in 2013 compared with 2012, with 38,766 Afghan refugees voluntarily repatriating.

34. Vaccination campaigns continued to work towards the elimination of polio in Afghanistan, one of the last remaining countries reporting the disease. In 2013, there were 14 reported cases down from 37 in 2012 and 80 in 2011. Since mid-December, three campaigns have been conducted in the 41 districts at highest risk, resulting in the vaccination of more than 2.7 million children under 5 years of age. One of these was conducted in Kabul, where a child was confirmed to have contracted the disease in early February, the first case to have been recorded in the capital since the fall of the Taliban regime. The polio programme has enjoyed access to otherwise inaccessible areas.

35. Between January and December 2013, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs registered 283 security incidents, involving humanitarian personnel, facilities and assets across 33 provinces. These had a combination of deliberate and accidental impacts, resulting in the deaths of 38 personnel, 29 arrests and detentions of staff, 50 staff injuries and 84 staff abductions. This included the

brief abduction on 21 January of 67 deminers in Herat, the largest number of personnel involved in a single incident in recent years.

36. On 22 January, the Common Humanitarian Fund was formally established with more than $30 million committed by donors by mid-February. This fund channels unearmarked contributions towards needs-based assistance, with priority given to the most critical needs identified in the Common Humanitarian Action Plan.

VI. Counter-narcotics

37. On 6 and 23 December, the counter-narcotics police of Afghanistan seized 64 kilograms of heroin and nearly one metric ton of opium in Kabul. The intercepts were a result of Afghan intelligence-led operations that increased tenfold in 2013 compared with 2012. On 20 January, the counter-narcotics police identified and dismantled a methamphetamine laboratory in Herat Province, the third of its kind to have been identified in Afghanistan in the past year. Seizures of synthetic drugs rose from 8 in 2010 to 54 in 2013.

38. Led by the Governor of Badakhshan, a new counter-narcotics committee for the border district of Eshkashem met between 31 December and 4 January, bringing together government officials, development organizations, civil society and religious scholars. It was established in a follow-up to last year's Afghanistan-Tajikistan cross-border ministerial conference on drug control and livelihoods, facilitated by the United Nations, which was aimed at better linking the communities in Badakhshan, Afghanistan, to those of Tajikistan's autonomous province of Gorno-Badakhshan and Khatlon Province. The establishment of similar groups is progressing on the other side of the border, with the ultimate goal of joint committees to facilitate trade and build trust between cross-border communities.

39. On 17 January, the new Minister of Counter-Narcotics met with the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Yury Fedotov, in Vienna and emphasized that, without increased commitment by the international community, it would be difficult to achieve lasting success. On 28 and 29 January, the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics organized a Good-Neighbourly Relations Declaratic. conference in Kabul. Ministers and representatives of counter-narcotics institutions in China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated. Greater exchange of information and improved joint simultaneous border operations were encouraged. On 10 February, the Minister of the Interior held a donors' conference on counter-narcotics in Kabul. Counter-narcotics is one of the Minister's top three priorities, and he urged the international community to continue to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies in that area.

VII. Mission support

40. Following the closure of 10 of its field offices over the past 18 months, UNAMA maintains a permanent field presence in 13 provinces. Consolidated field offices continue to provide a unique national platform for mandated outreach and monitoring activities. Despite security challenges, field offices engage on a daily basis with communities and officials at the provincial and district levels, including

in areas where the Mission does not have a permanent presence. Significant efforts are being made to maximize the use of the Mission's reduced fleet of armoured vehicles and to maintain — and even, in some cases, increase — the number of road missions undertaken. UNAMA also provided support for more than 40 visits outside Kabul carried out by the diplomatic community in 2013. The closure of provincial reconstruction teams and other international military bases across the country has had an impact on the level of logistical support available to United Nations field personnel, including through decreased maintenance of a number of regional airfields. In addition, staff members no longer have access to the level of medical care or safe havens previously available to them in the event of emergencies.

41. Following a reduction of 243 posts in 2013, UNAMA currently has 1,515 personnel (with a 6 per cent vacancy rate), comprising 345 international and 1,170 national staff. In addition, there are 71 United Nations Volunteers, 16 military advisers and three police advisers. On 11 January, UNAMA participated in the first meeting of the steering committee of the Kuwait Joint Support Office to further clarify governance, management and resource allocation issues. The enterprise resource planning project, Umoja, was launched in the Mission on 1 March, following months of preparations.

VIII. Observations

42. A legitimate political transition is the foundation for stability in Afghanistan. Next month's landmark elections will mark the first transfer of power in Afghanistan from one elected president to another. Efforts remain on track for presidential and provincial council elections to be held on 5 April in accordance with Afghanistan's legal and constitutional framework. These polls will not be without flaws; however, if credibly conducted, with a result that is widely accepted, they will provide a mandate for a new leadership to address the country's many challenges in ways that strengthen stability and reinforce national unity.

43. Afghanistan's electoral management bodies are in the lead, and the efforts of the Independent Election Commission have ensured smooth progress, with technical arrangements more advanced than those for any previous poll. The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission has faced a major challenge in working to strengthen institutional capacity, including a presence in each of the country's 34 provinces, while carrying out its substantial responsibilities at the same time. Its role in transparently and impartially adjudicating electoral complaints will be critical. Observation will be another important element in building trust in the electoral process, and I encourage domestic observers, as well as candidates and party agents, to ensure wide geographic coverage. I welcome those international organizations that will field observer missions. While the United Nations does not have a role in the administration or adjudication of these elections, it will, in line with its mandate and at the request of Afghan authorities, continue to provide technical assistance to and facilitate coherence in international support for the process.

44. My Special Representative continues to meet with all stakeholders in support of the inclusiveness and integrity of the process. Efforts among contenders to build mutual understandings, while they must not replace the people's voice at the ballot box, are welcome in guarding against a "winner-takes-all" scenario. I welcome

what, to date, has been a robust but respectful campaign. Candidates as well as electoral authorities hold enormous responsibility in helping to ensure that the electoral process promotes stability and national unity. I urge candidates and their supporters to comply with electoral laws and to pursue complaints through mandated institutions.

45. Come 5 April, I encourage all eligible Afghan citizens to make their voice count in the country's future. The participation of women — not only as voters, but also as candidates, electoral workers and observers — will be a key measure of the representativeness of these elections. State institutions and security forces must remain impartial, and I welcome President Karzai's clear instructions in this regard. Media freedom and balanced coverage are equally essential to a fair contest. Security will be critical in ensuring that voters have the confidence to turn out, and the very real challenges in this regard should not be underestimated. Afghan security institutions are in the lead, and the Ministry of the Interior, together with national and international partners, has been proactive in security planning to support a maximum franchise. Elections are the exercise by citizens of their rights, and I call on all parties to the conflict to respect their obligations in this regard.

46. Afghanistan faces a complex conflict, with a nexus of armed groups and organized criminal networks pursuing simultaneous and sometimes competing local, national and transnational agendas. A peace process or even direct talks between the Government of Afghanistan and major armed opposition elements are unlikely before the elections. The widespread desire for peace, however, is clear from the discourse of the election campaigns, as well as from the positions of diverse Afghan religious, tribal and civil society groups. It is essential that efforts continue to put in place arrangements to, in the short term, prevent and mitigate the ever-increasing toll that the violence is taking on civilians. Continuing engagement should also assist a new Government's efforts to move swiftly in initiating the first steps towards longer-term solutions. Times of uncertainty can heighten community rivalries and feelings of marginalization, which can be exploited by insurgents. The Mission's community-level dialogue and confidence-building, including a recent focus on ulema's contribution to peace, is a low-profile but important contribution. The good offices of the United Nations in support of Afghan-led reconciliation will remain at the disposal of a future Government.

47. Afghanistan's place in the region will be vital to long-term stability and sustainability as the presence of the wider international community draws down. I continue to be encouraged by the increased recognition of shared mutual interests by Afghanistan and Pakistan, which I hope will further expand and extend to concrete actions in support of peace and stability, underscored by economic cooperation. Growing regional engagement through complementary bilateral, regional and multilateral forums is welcome. The shared nature of the challenges — and opportunities — that Afghanistan presents to the security and stability of the entire region appears widely understood as regional forums, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, turn their attention to support for Afghan solutions. The Istanbul Process is distinct in that Afghanistan is at the heart of the mechanism. Increasingly, substantive dialogue is emerging in this forum on regional stability and energy security measures, and the United Nations will continue to provide support to regional confidence-building efforts. I hope that preparations for the ministerial-level meeting to be held in Tianjin, China, in August will provide the opportunity to

pursue practical results, and I welcome China's active role as host and promoter of regional cooperation.

48. Elections, as in any country, currently consume much of the political space. The economic sustainability of Afghanistan, however, remains pressing and cannot be ignored. The special meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board held on 29 January reinforced the importance of continuity in progress on mutual commitments made in Tokyo, including addressing the reform, good governance and human rights agenda, as well as the growing fiscal gap between government revenue and expenditure through robust efforts to increase revenue. An appropriate regulatory framework is another key component of confidence, notably progress on the adoption of anti-money-laundering, counter-terrorism financing and mining legislation, all of which are commitments under the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework. In this environment, any rapid decline in the exceptional levels of aid provided to Afghanistan carries grave risk, and predictability on the part of the international community in meeting financial commitments made in Tokyo and Chicago in the coming years will be equally essential. I welcome the recognition by Afghanistan's presidential candidates of the need to maintain momentum on mutual reform commitments and, in particular, the need for greater attention with regard to a broad-based, inclusive and sustainable development and poverty reduction agenda. The emphasis of candidates on job creation for Afghanistan's burgeoning youth population is equally important. Given that Afghanistan's economic sustainability is at stake, preparations for the ministerial development conference planned for later in the year must not be business as usual. There is a need for a prioritized and sustained approach to Afghanistan's development, and the United Nations will continue to assist with the coordination of international aid in support thereof.

49. A key focus in the preparations for the ministerial meeting must be efforts to strengthen the licit economy and undercut the burgeoning illicit economy. Opium production in Afghanistan hit a new high in 2013, with the supply of and demand for narcotics threatening the health and well-being of the population, the economy and the institutional fabric of the country and the region. As other sectors contract, and as insurgents rely increasingly on funding from the drug trade, there is a real risk of the emergence of a narco-State. Comprehensive approaches to tackling this scourge are a shared responsibility requiring robust political will on the part of Afghanistan, the region and the wider international community.

50. The progress that Afghanistan has made in protecting and promoting human rights since 2001 has been an important contributor to stability, however fragile. Amid the uncertainty of transition, many Afghans, particularly women, fear that human rights achievements risk being forfeited for the sake of short-term political expediency. Greater commitment to the implementation of the law on the elimination of violence against women remains a critical government responsibility, with prosecutions and convictions under this landmark legislation remaining low. I welcome the Government's first report on progress on the implementation of the law. Another noteworthy development is the commitment of the Minister of the Interior to increasing the number of female police officers and to ensuring adequate support for them. I welcome the endorsement by President Karzai of the criminal procedure code — the culmination of many years of work — as well as his intervention to ensure that perpetrators of violence, particularly against women, are held accountable. Steps such as these will contribute to confidence, domestic and international, in Afghanistan's future. In this regard, I call on Afghan authorities to

take all necessary measures to support the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission in fulfilling its critical role as an effective and independent institution. Supporting Afghan efforts to strengthen human rights and the rule of law will remain a priority for the United Nations. Across the United Nations system, those elements and agencies engaged in support for the rule of law are increasingly working together to streamline and strengthen efforts.

51. Afghanistan remains in the bottom decile of the world's least developed countries. Humanitarian needs are foreseen to rise, including through civilian casualties and the displacement of conflict-affected populations. In this context, the coordination of humanitarian assistance will continue to be a core component of the work of the United Nations in Afghanistan. The 2014 Common Humanitarian Action Plan reflects a more targeted approach to meeting the most acute needs, and I call upon donors to maintain their commitments. The abduction of 67 mine clearance workers serves as another reminder of the dangerous operating environment. There is no evidence that humanitarian workers are being systematically targeted; however, the nature of their work means that needs are often greatest where risks are highest. The access of vaccination workers has been facilitated by local leaders, and this must be sustained if the global goal of the eradication of polio by 2018 is to be achieved.

52. Uncertainty dominates Afghanistan's final year of transition and has an impact on political, security, economic and social developments. The international presence will be dramatically reduced, and Afghanistan's future leadership is not yet decided upon. In this context, it is critical that predictability and confidence, where feasible, be reinforced. The United Nations has been a force for continuity in Afghanistan for decades. Its countrywide presence and its good offices, human rights, coordination of international aid and humanitarian assistance functions will remain important. The precise ways in which the Organization can best support Afghanistan and its people will necessarily evolve to reflect changing circumstances. When there is greater clarity regarding the political, security and economic impacts of Afghanistan's final transition year, that will be the time to address, together with the Government of Afghanistan, the role of the United Nations in greater depth. I would thus request the Security Council to extend the mandate of UNAMA, due to expire on 19 March, for a further 12 months. In so doing, I reiterate the commitment of the United Nations to a sustained partnership with Afghanistan. I also call upon Member States to continue to provide the resources required to maintain our engagement and activities across the country.

53. I again pay tribute to the lives and dedicated service of our four fallen comrades and express my deep condolences to the families they leave behind. The 17 January attack reminded us once again of the dangers faced by United Nations national and international staff members. The targeting of a civilian location breaks every established law and norm of war, and I reiterate my strongest condemnation of such acts. All parties to the conflict must fulfil their obligations with respect to the protection of civilians. I thank all personnel in Afghanistan, under the leadership of my Special Representative, Ján Kubiš, for their continued commitment in support of the people of Afghanistan.

Annex

Progress achieved against benchmarks

I. Security

Benchmark: sustainable Afghan security institutions and processes capable of ensuring peace and stability and protecting the people of Afghanistan

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
Increase in the number of national police and national army personnel mentored, trained and operational according to an agreed structure	• As of mid-January, the personnel of the Afghan National Army numbered 193,427, including 7,300 military personnel serving in the Afghan Air Force. As of the end of 2013, the Afghan National Police had 145,199 personnel • On 8 April 2013, the Ministry of the Interior issued its 10-year vision for the Afghan National Police and the Ministry, outlining plans for civilian policing, community engagement and the recruitment of women police. In January 2014, the Ministry also issued its strategy for the management of women police, to provide guidance on their protection. Both initiatives reflected technical advice from the international community and UNAMA
Development of and progress in a plan for a phased and conditions-based transition to an Afghan security lead	• The President approved the fifth and final tranche of the transition on 18 June 2013

II. Peace, reintegration and reconciliation

Benchmark: national dialogue and regional engagement to pursue constructive and inclusive processes to foster a political environment conducive to peace

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
Development and implementation of inclusive national and regional processes to enhance peace, reintegration and reconciliation efforts	• At the end of December 2013, a total of 7,796 anti-government elements were enrolled in the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, including 693 commanders/leaders. Since the beginning of the programme, 164 small grants projects have been approved in 25 provinces, benefiting communities through the development of infrastructure and providing short-term employment opportunities for community members and reintegrees

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	• To support the Government's efforts to stabilize key areas, the United Nations-supported National Area-Based Development Programme continued in 2013, with 22 projects completed in 10 provinces. These projects benefited 94,182 people, including by providing ex-combatants with alternative economic opportunities
	• From 8 to 11 January 2013, President Karzai, accompanied by the Chair of the High Peace Council, visited Washington, D.C., and discussed with the President of the United States of America and other officials the furtherance of the peace process
	• Participants in the third International Conference for Islamic Cooperation for a Peaceful Future in Afghanistan, held in Istanbul on 4 and 5 March 2013, called for the settlement of differences through dialogue and negotiations. The follow-up conference, held in Kabul on 8 April 2013, explored practical measures to implement what had been endorsed in Istanbul. The religious scholars participating in the Conference denounced suicide attacks as un-Islamic
	• On 18 June 2013, the Taliban issued a statement indicating its willingness to pursue a political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. An office for talks was opened in Doha, in the presence of designated Taliban officials and the Qatari authorities. The Taliban's use of the name and symbols of its former regime at the opening ceremony triggered a strongly negative reaction from the Government of Afghanistan and wider Afghan society. On 19 June, the Government declared that dialogue would be postponed pending guarantees that the process would be fully Afghan-led. Subsequently, the office was temporarily closed
	• In response to a request made by President Karzai during an official visit to Pakistan on 26 and 27 August 2013, seven Taliban prisoners were released on 7 September 2013, and Mullah Baradar was released on 21 September 2013

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	• A High Peace Council delegation travelled to Islamabad from 19 to 21 November 2013, where they met with the Prime Minister and other Government officials to work on previously agreed initiatives. During a visit to Kabul on 30 November 2013, the Prime Minister of Pakistan renewed commitments to the facilitation of talks with the Taliban
	• In 2013, UNAMA organized four mediation skills training courses for 73 prominent Afghan stakeholders in four provinces and supported seven local peace initiatives, which resulted in 21 local dialogue events held in nine provinces. Those initiatives produced five declarations or interim agreements in support of reconciliation or confidence-building measures between communities
	• The development of the national action plan for Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) to enhance women's role in conflict prevention and participation in the peace process continued, with United Nations technical and financial assistance being provided to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Increased ability by Afghan authorities to gather and provide substantiated, updated and accurate information to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)	• In 2013, the Government of Afghanistan provided substantiated, updated and accurate information to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), including an annual report on the status of reportedly reconciled individuals who had been delisted in the course of 2012
	• On 16 April, the Committee approved the listing of an individual for manufacturing improvised explosive devices for the Taliban and for constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan
Increased public support for the peace process through engagement at the community level and with civil society	• In 2013, 1 provincial peace committee was established, bringing the total of such committees to 33. The number of provincial joint secretariat teams implementing the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme increased to 33

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	• The first meeting between the High Peace Council and political parties was held on 16 April 2013, to discuss ways to achieve unity among various layers of Afghan society in support of the peace process. A similar meeting was held on 2 May 2013 with the Cooperation Council of Political Parties and Coalitions of Afghanistan
	• In April and May 2013, the High Peace Council held meetings with Afghan civil society representatives to establish a forum to address the concerns of civil society groups and promote inclusivity in national peace dialogues
	• On 4 July 2013, the High Peace Council participated in a conference, entitled "Discussing the Social Peace Strategy", organized by a forum of civil society groups. It was agreed that the Council's joint secretariat and the forum would jointly establish a mechanism for the implementation of the strategy
	• A joint High Peace Council and ulema conference was held in Kabul on 4 August 2013 to discuss ways to expand outreach through mosques and religious centres to promote peace and tolerance
	• During Peace Week, in September 2013, the High Peace Council organized a regional conference on the role of women in the peace process, in Jalalabad; an international ulema conference on Islam, peace and tolerance, in Kabul; and a High Peace Council and civil society joint gathering, in Kabul. In addition, some 120 outreach events, attended by more than 25,000 people, were held throughout the country to promote peace and reconciliation

III. Governance and institution-building

Benchmark: extension of Government authority throughout the country through the establishment of democratic, legitimate, accountable institutions, down to the local level, with the capacity to implement policies and to be increasingly capable of sustaining themselves

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
Increased ability by Afghan authorities and independent electoral institutions to manage and conduct genuine and periodic elections, with due regard to women's participation and constitutionally guaranteed quotas	• The National Assembly ratified the legal framework for future elections, comprising the electoral law and the law on the structures, duties and authorities of the Independent Election Commission and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission. The laws were endorsed by the President in July 2013. The new legislation reduced the quota for women in provincial councils from 25 per cent to 20 per cent • The voter registration update commenced on 26 May 2013, and, as at 14 February 2014, a total of 3,507,682 voter cards (34.6 per cent to female voters) had been issued to those who had reached 18 years of age, lost their voter cards or moved since the holding of the previous polls • Afghan national security forces expressed confidence in the securing of nearly 94 per cent of the 7,168 polling centres proposed by the Commission for the 2014 elections. On 19 February, the Independent Election Commission announced its list of 6,775 polling centres for election day, expressing similar levels of confidence • On 31 July, the nine Commissioners for the Independent Election Commission were formally appointed. The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission was established on 15 September, followed by the appointment of its five Commissioners and the authorization of the Commissions' initial budgets on 23 September. The Commissioners for both electoral bodies were appointed on the basis of a formal consultative process mandated in the electoral legislation. The Independent Election Commission completed its operational plan, which provides a detailed overview of the processes that ensure that all necessary activities are identified and sequenced and that those activities meet all deadlines set out in the

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	elections law, regulations, procedures and guidelines
Establishment of a monitoring and evaluation committee and development of anti-corruption benchmarks	• On 28 September 2013, the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee released its fourth six-month report, covering January to June 2013. In the report, the Committee noted that progress had been made but that further efforts were needed, including the recovery of Kabul Bank assets. The Committee added 36 new recommendations to its existing list of 74
	• On 21 October 2013, the Committee called on the National Assembly to improve the mineral law to better protect the mining sector against corruption. Legislators incorporated the Committee's recommendations into the draft law on increasing transparency and accountability in the sector
	• On 27 January 2014, the Committee released five reports identifying significant vulnerabilities to corruption in various sectors of government, including the distribution of land to repatriates, pension payments and appointments to the civil service
Empowerment of anti-corruption institutions to oversee a whole-of-government approach to anti-corruption	• In the first quarter of 2013, the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption established an anti-corruption committee within each ministry to enhance coherence and greater outreach in the implementation of the Government's anti-corruption policies. Each committee receives technical support and training from the Office
	• In September 2013, the National Assembly approved the national audit law, mandating the Supreme Audit Office to undertake audits of government institutions
	• On 9 December 2013, the Government launched the Afghanistan Integrity Initiative, a United Nations-backed anti-corruption project. The initiative is aimed at strengthening the capacity of administrative systems to tackle corruption and will be implemented by the Ministries of Education and Justice together with the Supreme Audit Office and citizens' groups

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
Annual publication of asset declarations of public officials	• The Government's High Office of Oversight registered the assets of 2,975 government officials during the reporting period. The Office has published information on the "asset registration" of 44 senior government officials, and asset verification has been completed for 33 high-level government officials, including the President, Vice-Presidents, ministers and governors. The verification of the asset declarations of an additional 32 senior officials is under way
Increased capacity of civil servants at the central, provincial and district levels to discharge functions and deliver services	• In 2013, the Civil Service Training Institute delivered training on management, computer skills, English-language proficiency, planning and finance/accounting to 5,150 civil servants
	• In 2013, the Independent Directorate for Local Governance trained staff of 7 provincial government offices, 29 district government offices and 8 municipality offices on planning and reporting, budgeting and human resources management. The Directorate also established resource centres in Bamyan and Jawzjan provinces to provide public information on the status of the administration
Increased transparency and effectiveness of civil service appointments	• Merit-based recruitment of district governors continued, with 49 new district governors appointed in 2013. This brought the total number of district governors recruited through this process to 231. The overall total of deputy provincial governors recruited under this system has remained 32 since January 2013
Strengthened civil service reform supported by a comprehensive approach to capacity-building and donor-funded technical assistance	• In 2013, five proposals were submitted by the Ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock; Public Health; Communication and Technology; Commerce; and Rural Reconstruction and Development to the Capacity-building for Results Programme managed by the World Bank. The proposal from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock has been approved by the programme's advisory group and is currently being finalized by its steering committee in advance of implementation and the disbursement of funding

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	• The United Nations and the World Bank committed to the progressive alignment of salaries for 6,000 to 7,000 government staff currently paid through their funds, with an agreed government scale for national technical assistance
Implementation of the subnational governance policy and development of subnational regulatory, financing and budgetary frameworks	• The municipality law is under review by the Cabinet. Pending its finalization, the Independent Directorate for Local Governance led the development of municipal action plans to improve revenue generation
	• The national policy for governance and development at the district and village levels was approved by the Cabinet on 30 December 2013. The amended provincial council law was adopted by the lower house of the National Assembly on 4 January 2014. The local government law was endorsed by the Cabinet and is awaiting the approval of the National Assembly
	• In 2013, authorities in all 34 provinces completed one-year provincial development plans
Development and publication of criteria for administrative boundaries	• National and international institutions continue to use the 2009 internal boundary data set as stipulated by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance and the Geodesy and Cartography Head Office
Establishment of adequate infrastructure for functioning government institutions, especially at the subnational level	• The Independent Directorate of Local Governance completed the construction of 4 provincial and 11 district administrative buildings and 6 provincial residential buildings
Establishment of credible and accessible judicial and penal systems that respect and uphold the human rights of all citizens	• On 23 February 2014, the President signed the criminal procedure code as approved by both houses of the National Assembly
	• In January 2014, the criminal law reform working group, chaired by the Ministry of Justice, finalized 220 articles of the draft penal code. The current penal code is being revised to incorporate all criminal laws enacted since 2001, including counter-terrorism, anti-corruption, anti-money-laundering and anti-human-trafficking laws

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	• In 2013, the Director-General of the Central Prisons Directorate signed 114 operational prison directives to improve the implementation of prison management and administration, as well as promoting human rights regulations
	• The national priority programme entitled "Law and Justice for All" was endorsed at the meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board on 29 June 2013
	• The Ministry of Justice increased the number of legal aid offices to 31 in 2013. The offices are staffed by 101 legal aid lawyers, an increase compared with 84 in 2012. An additional 42 lawyers are provided through the Justice Sector Development Programme of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
	• In 2013, the provision of legal aid services by non-governmental organizations decreased, with the number of lawyers declining to an estimated 208 from 236 in 2012
	• The number of lawyers registered with the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association increased from 1,500 in December 2012 to approximately 2,000 in December 2013
	• Following the formal transfer of the Central Prisons Directorate to the Ministry of the Interior in 2012, the pay review process for the Directorate was completed on 23 October 2013, to achieve parity in salary with the police and improve staff retention
	• The Central Prisons Directorate, in liaison with other national and international stakeholders, developed the Ministry of the Interior's 10-year vision for the Directorate, which was launched on 30 June 2013. The Ministry, with United Nations support, provided coordination and technical assistance in the development of a series of progressive two-year strategic plans that support the implementation of the vision
	• In response to a 33 per cent increase in the prison population since 2012, three new prisons for men and two for women became operational in 2013, along with three juvenile rehabilitation centres

IV. Human rights

Benchmark: improved respect for the human rights of Afghans, in line with the Afghan Constitution and international law, with particular emphasis on the protection of civilians, the situation of women and girls, freedom of expression and accountability based on the rule of law

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
Reduction in the number of incidents of unlawful use of force and intimidation of civilians, through compliance by relevant actors with international law	• In 2013, conflict-related violence killed 2,959 civilians and injured 5,656, a 14 percent increase in total civilian casualties compared with 2012. Anti-government elements were responsible for 2,311 civilian deaths and 4,063 injuries, an increase of 4 per cent compared with 2012. Pro-government forces were responsible for 341 civilian deaths and 615 injuries, a 59 per cent increase compared with 2012. Unattributed ground engagements between anti-government elements and pro-government forces resulted in 160 civilian deaths and 720 injuries, a 64 per cent increase compared with 2012 • In 2013, the United Nations-led Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on Children and Armed Conflict documented 1,694 child casualties. A total of 545 children were killed and 1,149 children were injured, an overall increase of 42 per cent compared with 2012 • The Government continued the tracking of civilian casualties through the civilian casualties tracking cell in the Presidential Information Coordination Centre • To reduce civilian casualties from explosive remnants of war, in December 2013 the International Security Assistance Force established procedures to support the marking and clearance of military installations, including firing ranges • In 2013, the Taliban reported, in its regular monthly statements, 277 incidents of civilian casualties resulting from operations of pro-government forces. UNAMA was able to verify 174 of these incidents through its reporting on conflict-related violence

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	• The United Nations continued extensive monitoring and advocacy efforts to strengthen compliance with international law and UNAMA recorded a 39 per cent decrease in civilian casualties from pressure-plated improvised explosive devices in 2013
Improved awareness by Afghans of their rights and by the Government of its obligations	• Following the issuance of presidential decree No. 169 to address allegations of the torture and ill-treatment of conflict-related detainees, the Ministry of the Interior, the National Directorate of Security and the Attorney-General's Office strengthened the training of their personnel, including the introduction of human rights modules at both the Directorate and Afghan National Police academies
	• In 2013, UNAMA published four public reports: two on the protection of civilians, one on the implementation of the law on the elimination of violence against women and one on the treatment of conflict-related detainees in Afghan custody. In conjunction with the reports, UNAMA carried out advocacy activities with various stakeholders and the media to raise awareness among the Afghan population
	• The Government continued efforts to implement the action plan to protect children from the impact of the conflict and to prevent underage recruitment by armed forces. In May 2013, the United Nations submitted an official response to the Government's annual progress report and assisted in the development of a 15-point plan to expedite the implementation of the action plan by the Government
	• On 3 October 2013, the United Nations and UNAMA organized the "Global Open Day on Women, Peace and Security", under the aegis of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The event was focused on the theme "Political participation is everyone's right: women as voters and candidates"

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
Improved impact of, and support for, legal and policy measures to combat violence against women and girls	• In 2013, both the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and UNAMA issued reports that addressed the implementation of the law on the elimination of violence against women. The reports noted progress and continuing gaps in the enforcement of the law by police, prosecutors and courts. The implementation of the law was discussed at the special meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board held in January 2014 • Commissions for the elimination of violence against women have been established in 32 provinces, in accordance with the provisions of the law on the elimination of violence against women, and the Ministry of Women's Affairs worked with local authorities in 11 provinces to improve the implementation of the law, with United Nations technical support • Beginning on 25 November 2013, as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, an initiative to raise awareness on ending violence against women, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled conducted, with United Nations support, a nationwide campaign on early and child marriage • A coordinated multisectoral response to gender-based violence continued to be developed in 2013. The integration of professional assistance and referral services into the health sector has been initiated by the Ministry of Public Health, with support from the United Nations Population Fund
Improved awareness of, and support for, legal and policy measures related to combating impunity and furthering transitional justice	• In February 2013, civil society groups, supported by UNAMA, launched the second phase of the Afghan People's Dialogue on Peace, which is aimed at supporting inclusive dialogue to produce local road maps for peace. By the end of 2013, the process had facilitated 187 focus group discussions with 4,572 people representing a broad social spectrum • On 24 July 2013, the women's committee of the High Peace Council held a conference for gender focal points from all ministries and directorates to discuss women's political participation and their role in promoting the peace process

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	• In December 2013, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) released a report, entitled "Like a bird with broken wings: Afghan Women Oral History, 1978-2008", on its Afghan Women Oral History initiative, covering 30 years of conflict. The testimonies of Afghan women contained in the report aim to provide a "voice to those denied a place in official history" and share their personal experiences, whether as victims or witnesses, to contribute to reconciliation and change
Government fulfilment of reporting requirements on international human rights covenants and conventions and implementation of the recommendations from the Human Rights Council universal periodic review of Afghanistan	• In December 2012, the Government of Afghanistan, with United Nations support, successfully requested a 10-year extension of the time frame for meeting its obligations under article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The implementation of a 10-year action plan commenced in April 2013 to remove all known remaining landmine contamination by 2023
	• On 10 July 2013, Afghanistan presented its combined initial and second periodic reports on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Government and civil society delegations, with United Nations support, presented their findings and responded to the queries of the Convention's Committee
	• In November 2013, the Government submitted its second report to the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council. The report addressed the Government's progress in implementing the 117 recommendations made by the Council in 2009
	• In December 2013, the Ministry of Justice, with United Nations support, conducted consultations with government ministries and institutions to prioritize the implementation of its commitments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
Increased capacity and commitment of the Government of Afghanistan and the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, as the Afghan national human rights institution, to respect, protect, fulfil and promote human rights	• Following the five-year review of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions on 18 November 2013, the Subcommittee on Accreditation decided to defer the re-accreditation of the Co mission until the Committee's second session of 2014 to allow the Commission to address concerns raised regarding its appointment processes, gender staffing ratio and financing • In 2013, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission published reports on violence against women, the situation of children, rape and honour killing, citizens' access to justice and the conditions of the elderly in Afghanistan • In 2013, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, with United Nations support, continued to enhance its efforts to monitor and address child rights violations. Following training for the Child Rights Unit undertaken in the first half of 20 3, the number of child rights violations recorded by the Commission rose from 21 in the second quarter of 2013 to more than 200 by the end of 2013

V. Economic and social development

Benchmark: government policies supported by the international community that promote sustainable economic growth and contribute to overall stability

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
National priority programmes are designed and implemented with international support and endorsement	• In June 2013, the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board endorsed the national priority programme entitled "Law and Justice for All", bringing the number of endorsed national priority programmes to 21, out of a total of 22 programmes • On 3 July 2013, the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework senior officials' meeting was held in Kabul. It was noted that both the Government and the international community had made progress in meeting their commitments, but that greater efforts were

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	needed on outstanding issues, including aid effectiveness, human rights, integrity in public finance and inclusive growth
	• Following these two events, the Government established a national priority programme implementation technical working group. The group is currently reviewing five national priority programmes to ascertain best practices on financial modalities to apply to the implementation of the other programmes
More equitable distribution of development assistance and Government expenditure throughout Afghanistan	• The Ministry of Finance has developed a provincial budgeting policy. The policy, now before the Cabinet for review, is aimed at balancing the role of the central Government while strengthening the ability of provincial and district authorities to improve direct service delivery
	• As at 11 February 2014, a total of 23 provinces were participating in the ongoing pilot provincial budgeting programme, led by the Ministry of Finance. The programme provides allocations of $3 million to the most underdeveloped provinces and $1 million to more developed ones. It is focused on the development of local capacity to plan for urgent development needs, particularly in areas that have seen the closure of provincial reconstruction teams
Increased revenue collection and sustainable growth based on Afghan resources	• The World Bank's January 2014 *Global Economic Prospects* report shows a slowdown of Afghanistan's growth in gross domestic product from 14.4 per cent in 2012 to 3.1 per cent in 2013. The slower economic growth is expected to continue in the first half of 2014. As a result, revenue collection is estimated to have declined from 10.3 per cent of gross domestic product in 2012 to 9.6 per cent in 2013, according to a World Bank presentation made at the special meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board held in January 2014

VI. Regional cooperation

Benchmark: sustained and effective regional coordination in support of prosperity, peace and stability

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
Improved coordination of regional bodies and increased regional investments	• On 20 March in Ashgabat, the Presidents of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan signed a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of railroads linking the three countries • On 29 March, participants in the eleventh ministerial meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, held in Dushanbe, discussed ways to enhance regional connectivity to promote trade, investment, transit and people-to-people contacts • On 26 April in Almaty, participants in the third ministerial conference on the Istanbul Process adopted implementation plans for the six confidence-building measures. The declaration adopted at the conference stressed the political nature of the process but emphasized the need for demonstrable progress in agreed activities and called for interim, ad hoc funding by participants • On 9 July, progress was made on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project, with a contract signed in Ashgabat between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan on the sale and purchase of gas • On 13 July in Kyrgyzstan, a meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization reaffirmed support for Afghanistan as an independent, peaceful, neutral and prosperous State free from terrorism and drug-related crime. The central role of the United Nations in international efforts to support Afghanistan was also reaffirmed • On 4 August, President Karzai visited the Islamic Republic of Iran and a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation between the National Security Council of Afghanistan and the Supreme National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran was signed

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	• On 10 and 11 September, a delegation of the Pakistan Senate Standing Committee on Defence met with Afghan counterparts to review security issues and cooperation
	• On 12 and 13 September in Bishkek, President Karzai attended the thirteenth summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and committed to the further strengthening of relations with the organization
	• On 16 and 17 September in Islamabad, participants in the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Council on the Central Asia-South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project adopted three resolutions establishing contract structures and procurement and finance committees
	• On 26 September, the seventh round of the Pakistan-Afghanistan parliamentary dialogue was held in Islamabad
	• On 21 October in Dushanbe, the Presidents of Afghanistan and Tajikistan signed an agreement on demining, border crossing protocols and insurance cooperation
	• On 30 October, Afghanistan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan signed a protocol on border cooperation
	• From 12 to 15 December, President Karzai carried out an official visit to India. During the visit, discussions were focused on enhancing the implementation of the two countries' strategic partnership agreement and regional integration and development, including through the "Heart of Asia" process
	• On 19 December, a parliamentary delegation from Pakistan visited Kabul. Parliamentarians from both sides suggested that Afghanistan and Pakistan sign a strategic cooperation partnership agreement

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	• On 17 January 2014, India hosted the senior officials' meeting of the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan, held in New Delhi. Progress achieved in terms of the six agreed confidence-building measures and their proposed funding modalities was discussed

VII. Partnership between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community

Benchmark: coherent support by the international community for Afghan priorities within an Afghan-led coordination framework

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
Increased percentage of aid aligned with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and Government priorities	• The Government issued two guidance notes to support the implementation of its aid management policy: one on alignment with the national priority programmes (in March 2013) and one on on-budget modalities (May 2013) • A task force led by the Ministry of Finance was established in 2013 to advocate and mobilize support for the implementation among the Government, the donor community, other multilateral partners, civil society and the private sector of the commitments set out in the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. The Ministry, together with the United Nations, is conducting a study to examine the five peacebuilding and State-building goals of the New Deal • In 2013, an on-budget modality for transferring funds within the Government to strengthen the financial management capacity of provincial and district-level support for the payment of salaries under the "Education for All" national priority programme was established with support from the United Nations as part of its programme for the enhancement of literacy

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
Improved accountability of procurement and contracting on behalf of the Government and the international community	• In November 2013, the Government held a high-level national procurement conference to address public procurement-related impediments to budget execution, service delivery and the achievement of development outcomes. The conference concluded with a declaration on the public procurement law, outlining national and international stakeholders' affirmation of their responsibility to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability and fairness in public procurement
Strengthening of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board in support of the Kabul Process and as a means of regular review of progress on Afghan priorities and mutual commitments	• Participants in the special meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board held on 29 January 2014 assessed the progress made in the implementation of the deliverables of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and underscored the need to accelerate progress on key indicators, including anti-corruption measures, the implementation of the law on the elimination of violence against women and the meeting of International Monetary Fund benchmarks

VIII. Counter-narcotics

Benchmark: sustained trend in the reduction of poppy cultivation, narcotics production and drug addiction

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
Decrease in poppy cultivation, narcotics production and addiction rates	• Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan increased in 2013, surpassing all previously recorded levels. The cultivation amounted to some 209,000 hectares, representing a 36 per cent increase compared with 2012. Opium production in 2013 rose to some 5,500 tons, a 49 per cent increase compared with 2012. The number of poppy-free provinces decreased from 17 in 2012 to 15 in 2013. The vast majority (89 per cent) of the total opium cultivation in 2013 was recorded in nine Provinces in Afghanistan's southern and western regions: Helmand, Kandahar, Farah, Uruzgan, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Badghis, Daykundi and Nimroz

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	• There were no new data available in 2013 to indicate a decrease in addiction rates within the country. However, the Government has continued the implementation of the drug demand reduction strategy and the national strategic framework for HIV and advocated with the World Bank and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the continuation and expansion of HIV prevention, treatment and care services
	• The provision of drug treatment services increased to cover approximately 32,000 individuals through 101 treatment services in 28 provinces. In 2013, the increase in services included the establishment and strengthening of harm-reduction services through 57 centres in 11 provinces. These initiatives in community and prison settings were focused on treatment services for vulnerable groups, including female drug users, spouses of male injecting users and adolescent drug users
Increase in effective interdiction and counter-trafficking efforts	• In 2013, the counter-narcotics police conducted 3,243 operations, seizing 7,157 kilograms of heroin, 23,979 kilograms of morphine, 115,650 kilograms of opium, 31,926 kilograms of hashish, 13,697 kilograms of cannabis and 11 kilograms of methamphetamine. In addition, 65,187 litres of liquid precursors and 45,806 kilograms of solid precursor materials were seized. The counter-narcotics police also assisted with the eradication of 7,348 hectares of opium poppy and dismantled 71 heroin manufacturing laboratories. These activities led to the arrest of 3,081 suspects, with 25 counter-narcotics police being killed and 74 wounded
	• The Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors continues to enhance regional cooperation in the fight against precursor trafficking. In 2013, five investigation cases of precursor chemicals, amounting to 141,055 litres, recommended by the Working Group were reviewed and backtracking investigations launched

Indicators of progress	*Metrics*
	• In 2013, seven coordination meetings within the framework of the Triangular Initiative and the Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan Initiative resulted in agreement on a number of recommendations, including with respect to joint/simultaneous operations. Afghan law enforcement agencies carried out six joint operations with Tajikistan, resulting in the seizure of 430.4 kilograms of narcotic drugs
	• Under the Triangular Initiative, the Maritime Regional Security Initiative, aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, resulted in the seizure of more than 7 tons of narcotic drugs
Increase in licit agriculture and related private capital investment in areas previously used for poppy cultivation	• In 2013, the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics played a key role in incorporating counter-narcotics objectives into the national priority programmes, including the development of a monitoring mechanism to measure the increase in licit agriculture and related private capital investment
	• In 2013, the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics took steps to revise and enhance the national drug control strategy to develop thematic policies
	• Twelve small-scale livelihood projects managed by the Ministries of Counter-Narcotics and of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock together with the United Nations are being implemented in the northern and western provinces of Afghanistan to support an increase in licit agriculture, including a land stabilization project that benefits 6,372 families

United Nations S/2014/164

Security Council

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10 March 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 7 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

As you may be aware, an illegitimate decision of the Crimean Parliament to hold a referendum on 16 March 2014 on the issue of "reuniting Crimea with the Russian Federation" was taken recently.

According to findings of Astrid Thors, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe High Commissioner on National Minorities, contained in her statement on the alarming situation in Crimea and the effects this could have on all communities of the peninsula, particularly the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar groups (see www.osce.org/hcnm/116180), rash decisions on the future status of Crimea are a major source of tension and expose divisions between the peninsula's communities. Like the Ukrainian community, Crimean Tatars have taken a different position to the majority population, which increases their vulnerability. Relations between ethnic groups on the peninsula are characterized by a growing climate of fear.

In this regard, I wish to refer to a statement of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People with regard to the announcement of a Crimean referendum by the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea calling upon all residents of Crimea to boycott every stage of preparation for the referendum of 16 March (see annex).

It is my strong belief that the statement attached hereto is another evidence of the illegitimacy of the referendum in Crimea planned by the separatists.

I would be most grateful if you could circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-25822 (E) 100314

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 7 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people with regard to the announcement of a Crimean referendum by the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

6 March 2014

In conditions of the severest political crisis caused by bringing Russian troops into Crimea, the Verkhovna Rada of Crimea called the urgent special session without informing the deputies of the opposition about the place and time of the session to adopt the decision "On holding a Crimean referendum".

The Crimean referendum will be held on 16 March 2014.

The analysis of this decision testifies not only to its legal nihility, but also to the crying disregard of the rights and interests of Crimean residents. Thus, item 1 in fact proclaims "inclusion of Crimea to the Russian Federation as a subordinate entity of the Russian Federation"; however, at this the next item announces that the referendum will be held on 16 March 2014.

Making these irresponsible actions part of the deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea not only violated the law of Ukraine, but demonstrated their cynical attitude to the multinational population of Crimea.

The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People considers the adoption of this decision by the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea not only as criminal and contradicting the interests of the overwhelming majority of the multinational population of Crimea, but also as deliberately provocative action, aimed at a further escalation of the tension in Crimea and around it.

The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People states that along with the gross disregard of the rights and interests of the multinational Crimean population, which is called to take part in the illegal referendum that has its result announced in advance, the rights of the Crimean Tatar people, who have no other historical homeland outside Crimea, were especially violated.

The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People calls upon all residents of the autonomy to boycott every stage of preparation for the referendum:

- Do not enter the district and territorial election committees
- Do not take part in making a list of voters or agree to enter the list of voters
- Demand one's exclusion from such lists in case of inclusion into the lists of voters
- Do not come to the polling stations on voting day or invite the members of the election committees to vote at home

At the same time, the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People calls upon the Crimean residents belonging to various nationalities to stay calm and avoid any attempts at provocation.

Peace and consent in our multinational Crimean society is our most efficient influence to those who brought chaos and fear for the future of our children, relatives and friends to our home.

The peaceful future of Crimea is in our hands!

(*Signed*) Refat **Chubarov**
Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People

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Security Council

Distr.: General
10 March 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 8 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, a copy of the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Ivan Mrkić, related to the formation of the so-called "Armed Forces of Kosovo", addressed to the Secretary-General (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would distribute the present letter and its annex to all the members of the Security Council and publish it as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Milan **Milanović**

14-25725 (E) 110314

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Annex to the letter dated 8 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Belgrade, 8 March 2014]

I am writing to you following the worrying announcements and developments in Kosovo and Metohija, fraught with potentially very serious consequences for security and stability in the Province, but also for the entire region.

As a matter of fact, the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo announced on 4 March 2014 the formation of the so-called "Armed Forces of Kosovo", which represents a grave violation of the provisions of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) which provides for the deployment in our southern Province of international forces under the aegis of the United Nations. The possibility of forming the so-called "Armed Forces of Kosovo" is thereby excluded. The creation of a "Kosovo army" would, no doubt, inflict a heavy blow to all efforts to find peaceful solutions and amount to a serious undermining of the authority and global role of the Security Council in safeguarding international peace and security.

The announcement of the formation of these forces itself caused additional anxiety among Serbian and other non-Albanian populations, who have lived there in an atmosphere of unpunished violence, arbitrary arrests and threats to the freedom of movement for years and who could not experience their creation otherwise but as an additional direct threat to their survival in Kosovo and Metohija.

These acts of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government are contrary to the spirit of the dialogue between Belgrade and Priština, conducted under the aegis of the European Union, to which the Republic of Serbia has been sincerely and fully committed since the very beginning and will certainly have a negative impact on further progress in the dialogue, as well as the implementation of the agreements reached.

Because of the aforementioned and in the interest of maintaining peace and creating conditions for normal life of all communities and citizens living in Kosovo and Metohija, I call on you to use your authority and see to it that this apparent threat to peace and security be prevented. In the efforts to maintain peace and find solutions for all outstanding issues through dialogue and agreement, you can continue to count on further and unreserved support and cooperation of the Republic of Serbia.

(*Signed*) Ivan **Mrkić**

United Nations S/2014/166

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 March 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 9 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to request an urgent meeting of the Security Council in accordance with Articles 34 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I also have the honour to request that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, a representative of the Government of Ukraine be allowed to participate in the meeting and to make a statement.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-25770 (E) 100314

Please recycle

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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 34
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 6 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 6 March 2014, regarding the violation of the airspace controlled by the Georgian central authorities (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-26488 (E) 170314

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Annex to the identical letters dated 6 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the violation of the airspace controlled by the Georgian central authorities

On 6 March 2014, at 12.20 p.m. local time, a Russian MI-8 military helicopter intruded from the illegally deployed military base in the occupied Tskhinvali region of Georgia into the airspace controlled by the Georgian central authorities and flew over the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs posts and police buildings located in the villages of the Gori and Kaspi districts, namely, Arbo, Mereti, Ditsi, Koshka, Kere, Plavi, Plavismani, Kveshi, Mejvriskhevi, Zerti, Kirbali, Bershueti, Tsitelubani, Khurvaleti, Zad[illegible]antkari, Sakorintlo, Kvemo Chala, Pantiani and Veke.

On the same day at 6.22 p.m., a Russian unmanned aerial vehicle intruded from the occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia, specifically from the direction of Nabakevi village in the Gali district, into the airspace controlled by the Georgian central authorities, and flew over the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs posts in the village of Khurcha in the Zugdidi district.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses concern over yet another instance of violation of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as of the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, and calls on the international community, foreign diplomats accredited in Georgia and the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia to pay special attention to the situation along the occupation line in order to prevent Russia's provocative actions and attempts to escalate the situation.

Tbilisi, 6 March 2014